

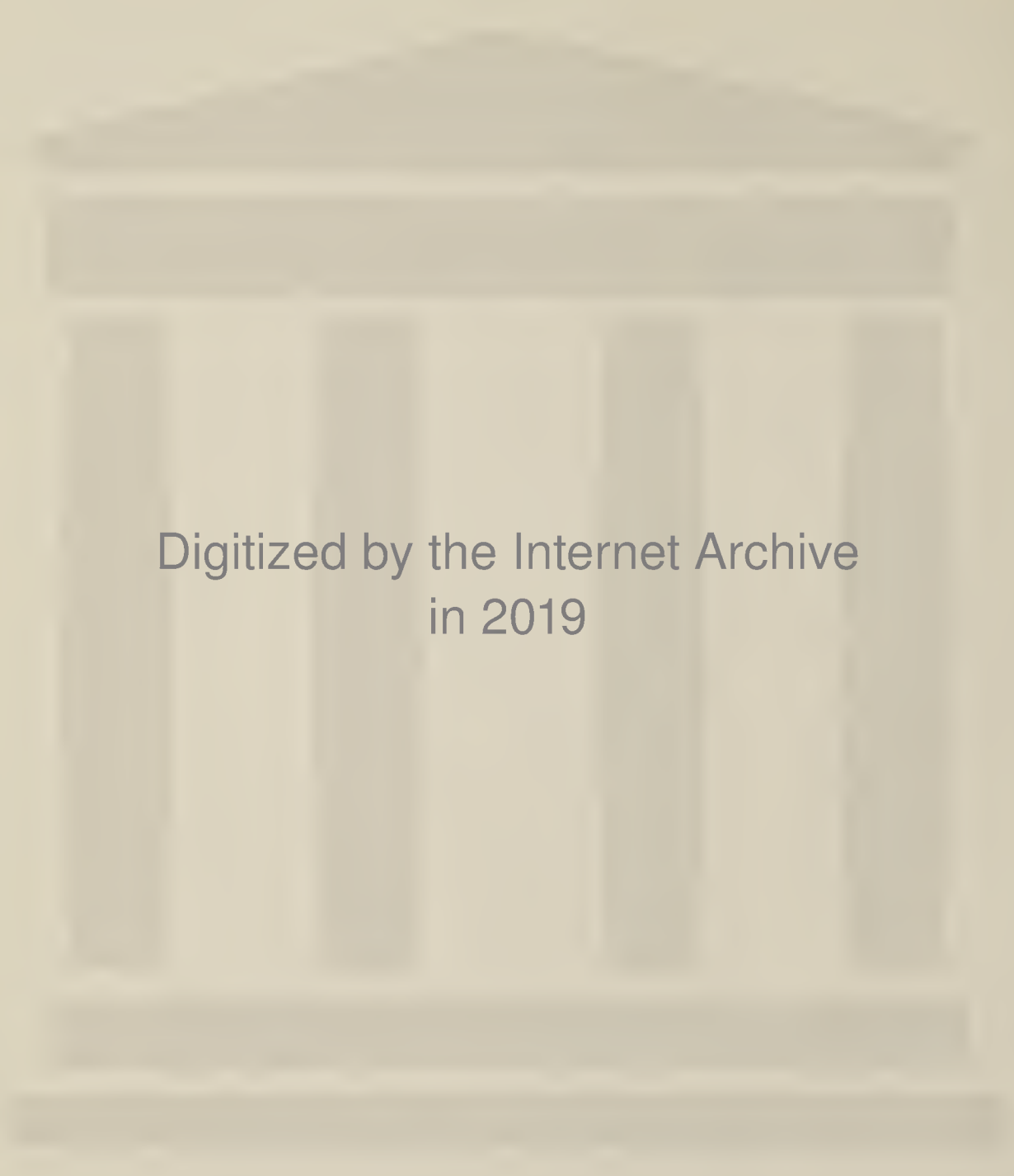
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History of Bristol, ^{Vt.} Vermont

(1762-1940)



COMPILED BY

CARRIE K. HARVEY AND CLARA M. KELLOGG

FOR

THE OUTLOOK CLUB OF BRISTOL



Outlook Club Members 1912

Back row standing, left to right: Mrs. Dana Hill, Mrs. Addie Hatch, Mrs. Elizabeth Rider, Mrs. Lena Denio, Mrs. Jennie Gove, Miss Evelyn Dumas, Mrs. Alice Sherwin, Mrs. Minnie Lawrence, Mrs. Lena Dickerman, Miss Kate Stewart, Miss Rosina Parmelee. Middle Row, seated: Mrs. Minnie Smith, Mrs. Jennie Wilson, Miss Anna Cooley, Mrs. Jennie Norton, Mrs. Ida Varney, Mrs. Seraph Sneden, Mrs. Fannie Grow, Mrs. Katherine Neal. Front row, seated: Miss Ella Norton, Miss Alta Cooley, Miss Helen Partch, Mrs. Mabel Bates, Mrs. Sarah Bristol, Mrs. Anna Bosworth, Mrs. Charlotte Estey, Miss Amy Sumner.

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HARVEY, CARRIE K.

History of Bristol, Vermont (1762-1940)

compiled by Carrie K. Harvey and Clara M. Kellogg
for the Outlook club of Bristol.

[Bristol, Vt.,

1940.]
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To these women, by whose foresight and faithful effort the Outlook Club was founded, we gratefully dedicate this book:

Mrs. Lena Roseman Denio

Mrs. Ellen Beach Eastman

Mrs. Jennie Norton

Mrs. Joel Page

Miss Rosina Parmalee

Mrs. Carrie Patterson Partch

Mrs. Elizabeth Rider

Mrs. Ruth Norton Roberts

Mrs. Seraph Sneden

Miss Kate I. Stewart

Mrs. Martha Parmalee Young

Mrs. Lillian Corey Boynton

Mrs. Jennie Everest Wilson

Bristol History

The town of Bristol is situated in the northeastern part of Addison County, bounded on the north by Monkton and Starksboro, on the east by Starksboro and Lincoln, south by Middlebury and west by New Haven. On the eastern side, running the entire length of the town is a spur of the Green Mountains composed of three separate mountains known locally as Hogsbaek, South and Elephant mountains. The only stream of importance in the town is the New Haven River which enters Bristol on the northeast from Lincoln and follows a southwest course into New Haven. Two small streams, both tributaries of the New Haven River are O'Brien Brook in the south part of town and Baldwin's Creek in the north part. There is a small pond in the northern part of Bristol, extending into Monkton, known as Bristol Pond or Lake Winona, which is of interest to fishermen.

The town of Bristol was chartered by Benning Wentworth, Governor of New Hampshire, to Samuel Averill and 62 associates June 26, 1762 under the name of Pocoek, in honor of a distinguished English admiral of that name. The original charter contained a grant of 23,600 acres with the usual reservations of land for the governor, the support of the Gospel, the Glebe right, the minister lot and the schools. The name was changed to Bristol by act of the legislature, October 21, 1789 but no reason can be found in town or state papers for the change. It is quite possible that the new name was chosen after the town of that name in Connecticut, for some of the early settlers came from Connecticut.

The first settlement in Bristol was begun in 1786 by Samuel Stewart and Eden Johnson whose wives were sisters. The two families came together from Skenesboro (now Whitehall), New York. Mr. Johnson traveled by land to drive the cattle, while the rest traveled as far as Vergennes by boat. They erected the first building in town, a log cabin which they occupied jointly until Mr. Stewart could build another one for his family. Mr. Stewart's daughter, Polly, was the first white child born in Bristol.

Although the Stewart and Johnson families are considered the first permanent settlers, when a committee of proprietors surveyed the town in 1785 they met a man who gave his name as John Brodt and said that he had lived in the town for 12 years since he fled from New York state, a fugitive. A pardon was secured for him and he returned to New York leaving no mark of his stay in Bristol for he had erected only a very crude shelter for himself and cleared no land other than a small patch where he raised a few vegetables.

The first male white child born in Bristol was Horace Griswold, son of Benjamin Griswold. The first marriage was that of Samuel Brooks and Betsey Rorapough, an Indian woman, on March 16, 1791.

The first proprietors' meeting on record was held at the home of Benjamin Griswold in Pocock, March 3, 1788. Miles Bradley was chosen moderator and Henry McLaughlin, proprietors' clerk. The original survey of the town made in 1785 was reported and accepted and a tax of \$2.00 was laid on each proprietor's right to pay the expenses of surveying and laying out roads and bridges. A committee consisting of Timothy Rogers, Miles Bradley, Justin Allen, Cyprian Eastman and Henry McLaughlin was chosen to lay out and care for the highways and bridges. The meeting was adjourned until May 13 when the proprietors were to meet at the home of Benjamin Paine in Addison. At this adjourned meeting it was voted to lay out 90 acres to each right as the first division. The last meeting of the proprietors was held in 1816 but from 1795 to 1815 no proprietors' meetings are recorded.

It is evident that meetings were held prior to the one on March 3, 1788 for at that meeting the report of the surveyors, who were chosen in 1784 or '85, was given and these two statements are found in secondary sources—"In the year 1785 John Willard, Jonathan Hoit and Miles Bradley—were appointed a committee by the proprietors to—survey the township," and "It is believed—that a proprietors' meeting was held in 1784 in Canaan, Conn."

The first town meeting was held in Bristol at the home of Justin Allen, March 2, 1789. Henry McLaughlin was chosen moderator and town clerk; Amos Scott, treasurer; Justin Allen, constable; Cyprian Eastman, Samuel Stewart and Robert Dunshee, selectmen. The second annual meeting was held March 23, 1790 and a more complete list of town officers was chosen: moderator, Jeremiah Burroughs; town clerk, Samuel Renne; treasurer, Cyprian Eastman; selectmen, C. Eastman, Henry McLaughlin and Gurdon Munsill; listers, Robert Dunshee, Amos Scott and Timothy Allen; constable, H. McLaughlin. They also chose a tax collector, leather sealer, grand juror, pound keeper, tythingman, two haywards, three fence viewers, three highway surveyors and a sealer of weights and measures.



Aerial View of Bristol

Churches of Bristol

Unlike most of the towns in the county which considered the support of the Gospel and the building of a meetinghouse town business to be taken up in town meetings, Bristol kept church and town matters separate. The first religious society in the town was the Baptist Church organized in 1794 by Elder Joseph Call with nine members. The first services were held in what is now known as Rocky Dale. The first Baptist minister was Reverend Thomas Tuttle who remained only a short time. The first settled minister in town, who received the use of the minister lot, was a pastor of this church, Reverend Amos Stearns who was ordained at the home of Robert Holley in Bristol, September 2, 1818. Services were held for the first few years in private dwellings, barns and schoolhouses. In 1819 the Baptists, Congregationalists and Universalists joined forces and built a meetinghouse which was to be shared according to their contributions of labor and money. In 1837 the Congregationalists sold their share to the Baptists and as the Universalist sect soon died out the Baptists came into full possession of the building which still serves them as their church. The first extensive remodeling was done in 1885 under the leadership of Reverend I. W. Koombs and an addition built on the north end of the church on land given by Mrs. Betsy Durfee. This addition was necessary to accommodate the church's first pipe organ which served until 1938 when it was remodeled.

In July, 1890 Reverend B. F. Kellogg was called to the pastorate of the Baptist Church and remained for four years. In June, 1894, while Mr. Kellogg was still pastor, the church observed its centennial anniversary.

For the following account of the Baptist Church history from 1894 to the present time we are indebted to Reverend K. W. Sollitt.

Reverend Wesley A. Kinzie, a graduate of Rochester Theological Seminary in the Class of 1894 was called to the pastorate of the church in July of that year, coming immediately with his new wife to his duties in this his first charge. He served the church for eight years and nine months most acceptably, was beloved by his people in consideration of his personal worth as a minister of the Gospel and a pastor, interested in all that concerned his church. During his pastorate many improvements were made on the church property. A new steeple was built, the cement work in front of the church was built, a cellar dug under the church and a furnace installed, a baptistry was built in the church and a new ceiling put in the auditorium. Under his leadership the present fine parsonage building was erected. After a long and successful pastorate he resigned in the spring of 1903, and on April 1 assumed his duties as pastor of the church at Barre, Vermont.

During the pastorate of Reverend Silas P. Perry who succeeded Mr. Kinzie a bell was placed in the belfry, the gracious gift of Mr. Ezra

B. Eddy, and a stove was purchased for heating water for the baptistry. Mr. Perry resigned January 3, 1907 to accept a call from the first Baptist Church at Richford, Vt.

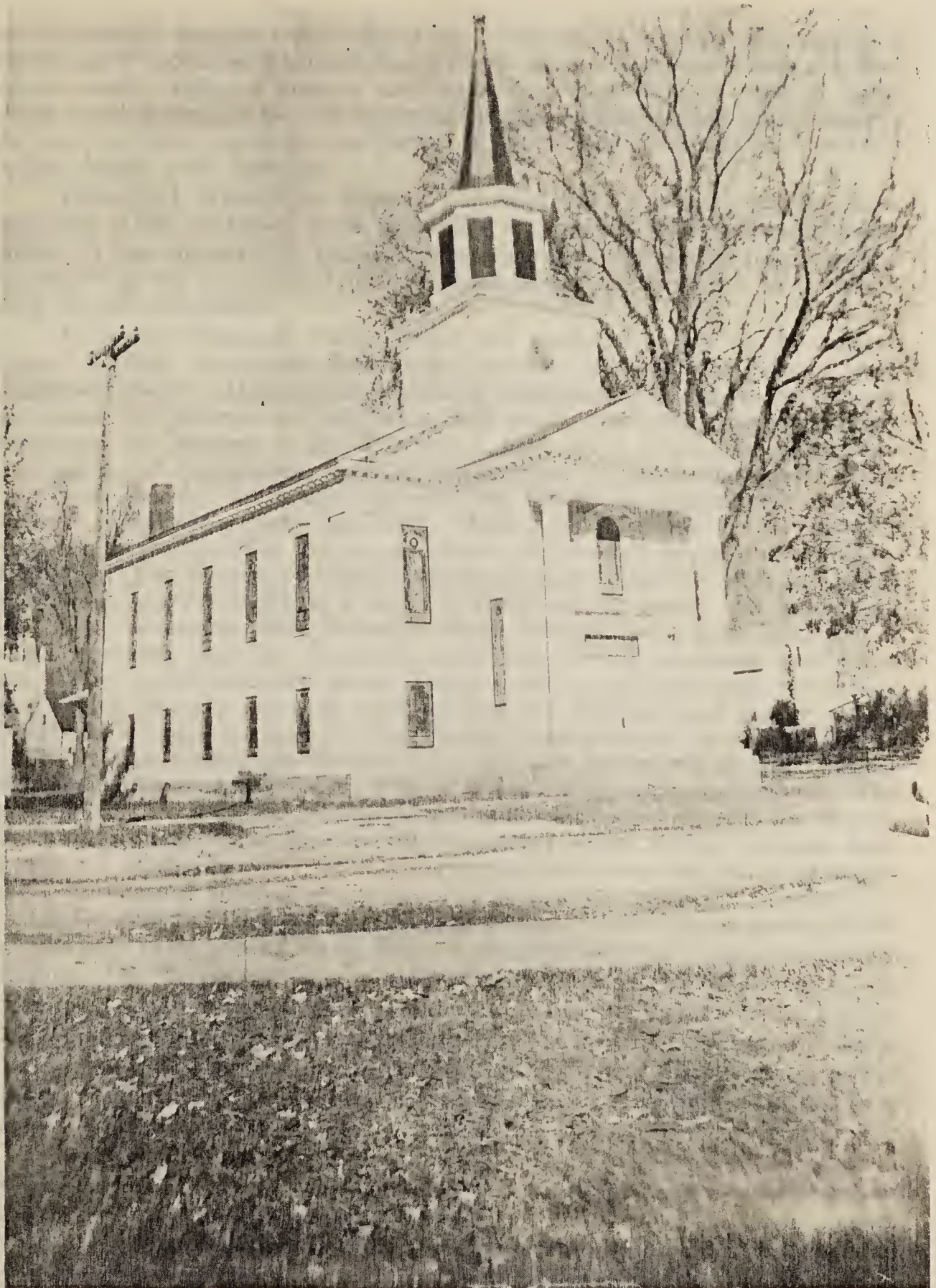
A call was extended to Reverend I. E. Usher of Poultney which was accepted and he began his work September 12, 1907. During Mr. Usher's pastorate 38 were added to the church membership, and the church was reincorporated as the First Baptist Church of Bristol. Mr. Usher resigned May 1, 1911 to accept a call from the Baptist Church of Rupert, Idaho.

In June, 1911, Reverend E. M. Holman accepted an invitation to the pastorate and his duties began August first. During Mr. Holman's stay, very gratifying progress was made in all departments of the church work and thirty-six names were added to the church roll. One of the outstanding characteristics of this pastorate was the prominence given to missions and the renewed enthusiasm aroused in this part of the church work. New chairs were placed in the vestry and other improvements made to the church property.

Upon Mr. Holman's resignation in May, 1915 to accept a call from the First Baptist Church of Fairfield, Maine, the church extended a call to Reverend George C. Chappell of Montville, Conn., which was accepted. Although Mr. Chappell's pastorate was of only a year's duration, the year was a prosperous one; there were thirteen new members added and all the services and activities of the church were in a flourishing condition. Needed repairs and improvements were made to the church kitchen, a new piano was purchased for the auditorium, a cement walk was laid from the church to the park and other alterations made.

Mr. Chappell concluded his work October 1, 1916, and on January 1, 1917, his place was taken by Reverend Thomas B. Hughes of Mechanicville, New York. His work was successful, all departments of the church went forward and fifty-one members were added during his term as pastor. The Every Member Canvass was adopted and extensive repairs made to the church property. The church was unusually fortunate in this pastorate in that Mr. Hughes' wife so ably seconded his efforts, as she was able to occupy the pulpit during his absence very acceptably. His resignation took effect October 1, 1919, and an invitation was extended to Reverend J. Joseph Fowler of Rowley, Mass., to become pastor of the church and his work commenced in May, 1920.

Under Mr. Fowler's leadership the Church School of Missions was instituted which has been held for six weeks annually ever since. The Christian Endeavor was thoroughly reorganized and put in a flourishing condition by Mr. Fowler who also conducted a very successful Go-to-Church Band of children who maintained an average attendance at the Sunday morning service of about thirty for four years. Mrs. Fowler trained the choir which added greatly to the worshipfulness of Mr. Fowler's preaching services. In 1925 the church was extensively remodeled and completely redecorated at a cost of nearly \$10,000. At the annual meeting of 1925 almost the whole of the amount needed was pledged and every penny that was pledged was paid, such was both the financial and the spiritual condition of the church at that time. The changes made included a new entrance, which made possible a center aisle in the main auditorium,



Baptist Church

new memorial windows throughout the building, new pews (the generous gift of the Vergennes Baptist Church) new carpet, hardwood floors, chairs for the vestry, lighting fixtures, and the spire restored to its original form. Many were added to the membership of the church during Mr. Fowler's ten years as pastor, and the popularity of the preacher brought great crowds to the church each Sunday.

Reverend Woodbury Stowell followed Mr. Fowler and for three years did a fine spiritual work especially among the aged members of the parish. It was during Mr. Stowell's pastorate that the church began to feel the effects of the economic depression and certain curtailments of expenses were found necessary.

Reverend Kenneth Sollitt began his work as pastor of the church August 1, 1933. Like Mr. Kinzie, he came to the pastorate direct from Colgate-Rochester Theological Seminary bringing his bride to the parsonage which Mr. Kinzie and his bride had built. Over eighty persons have come into the church in the five and a half years since Mr. Sollitt has been pastor of the church, forty of whom have joined by baptism. Many have been lost by death and removal but there has nevertheless been a net gain of between thirty and forty. During the first year of Mr. Sollitt's pastorate \$135 was spent for an acousticon, or hearing device for the hard-of-hearing. The church and parsonage have been repainted and the church organ completely rebuilt at a cost of \$1000, all of which has been paid for. Two successful daily Vacation Bible Schools have been held and it seems probable that the Vacation Bible School will continue year after year. The young people's group has grown in numbers and about one third of the Sunday morning congregation are children and young people of high school age or younger. The average attendance at morning worship was a fraction under one hundred for the first five years of Mr. Sollitt's pastorate, an average which to date is being consistently maintained. The spiritual condition of the church seems good and economically the church has found it possible to increase their pastor's salary twice, increase their missionary giving by 20%, rebuild the organ and make the other improvements mentioned above.

The church clerk, Mrs. F. R. Dickerman, reports the present church membership to be 234 of which 196 are resident members representing 107 families. The Treasure Seekers, with Mrs. B. E. Varney as their president, has fifty-two members and does a fine work among the women of the Parish. The Young People's Union touches the lives of between twenty and thirty high school young people, while the Children's World Crusaders, a newly formed organization for younger boys and girls is reaching some ten or a dozen boys and girls not yet old enough for the young people's society.

Mr. Sollitt left the Baptist Church in Bristol in May, 1940, to accept a call to the Beaver Dam, Wisconsin, Baptist Church. He was succeeded in Bristol by Reverend Hugh Q. Morton.

The Congregational Church was organized in July, 1805, by Reverend J. Bushnell of Cornwall who occasionally preached here after that. No definite place of worship was established until 1819 when the Congregationalist, Universalists and Baptists built their union church. In 1837 the Congrega-

tionalists sold their share in the building and built a meetinghouse for themselves which faced the common from the south. This church they later leased to the Advent Christian Society which now owns it. Their first settled minister was Reverend Calvin Butler, ordained in 1842. In 1890 the Congregationalist Society in Bristol had nearly died out but it became active again in 1899 under the fine leadership of Reverend C. N. Thomas and built a new church on North Street. Since the federation with the Methodists in 1917 this church has only been used for three months each year. Following Mr. Thomas were Rev. William Millar, Rev. William Scott, Rev. E. J. Ranslowe, Rev. Julian Klock and Rev. W. G. MacFarlane. The last Congregational minister in Bristol was Reverend W. G. MacFarlane.

The Methodist Church was organized in 1813 when services were held at the home of Ebenezer Saxton. The first sermon was preached by Reverend Stephen Scovenberger. No meeting place was erected by them until 1819 when a chapel was built which served until the present building at the corner of North and Church Streets was erected in 1840. During Mr. Skafte's pastorship (1904-05) this church was extensively redecorated and completely modernized. This building underwent extensive remodeling and redecoration in the spring of 1939. The Methodists and Congregationalists were federated May 24, 1917, having been known since that time as the Federated Church. Since the Methodists far out-number the Congregationalists in the federation a Methodist pastor has always been in charge. Services are held in the Methodist church except during the summer months. There are at present about 160 members under the pastorship of Reverend Loren Heaton. The Ladies Aid, composed of the ladies of the parish, now numbers 56 members with Mrs. Irene Wheelock as president.

The following list of pastors of the Methodist Church was donated by Reverend Loren Heaton. No records of the pastors previous to 1834 are available.

| | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1834- —Hiram Chase | 1870-71—C. A. Stevens |
| - —A. C. Rice | 1872-75—Simeon Gardiner |
| - —Adams Jones | 1876-77—E. L. Walker |
| 1835- —J. A. Belknap | 1878-79—A. L. Dibble |
| - —L. Prindle | 1880- —W. B. Osgood |
| 1836- —J. A. Belknap | 1881-82—P. W. Bell |
| 1837- —J. H. Brown | 1883- —B. S. Taylor |
| - —C. Divoll | 1884- —R. W. Smith |
| 1838- —J. H. Brown | 1885- —A. H. Nash |
| 1839- —W. Bullard | 1886- —J. W. Gregory |
| - —J. B. Burnham | 1887-88—W. O. Tower |
| 1840-41—B. O. Meeker | 1889- —E. Mead |
| 1842-43—G. N. Coptrell | - —W. N. Bossun |



Congregational Church

| | |
|------------------------|------------------------|
| 1844- —J. P. Foster | 1890-91—W. R. France |
| - —Richard Brown | 1892-94—J. G. Kunz |
| 1845- —John Thompson | 1895-99—L. A. Bigelow |
| 1846-47—W. Ford | 1900-02—H. L. Kelton |
| 1848- —E. B. Hoff | 1903- —G. E. Cady |
| 1849- —W. P. Graves | 1904-05—G. C. Skaft |
| - —C. H. Gridley | 1906-07—Frank Fletcher |
| 1850- —W. P. Graves | 1908-12—E. R. Stone |
| - —M. Auken | 1913-14—C. N. Curtis |
| 1851-52—C. Barber | 1915-16—George Parker |
| 1853- —E. B. Hoff | 1917-19—E. W. Gould |
| 1854-55—Mathias Ludlam | 1920-24—F. M. Hagadorn |
| 1856- —B. H. Loveland | 1925- —Ernest Blackman |
| 1857- —Lewis Dwight | 1926-27—George Stright |
| 1858-59—T. Dodson | 1928-31—T. Stevenson |
| 1860-61—W. J. Pond | 1932-33—H. Richardson |
| 1862-63—N. W. Atwater | 1934-36—C. L. Corliss |
| 1864-65—M. Morgan | 1937-39—Ralph Finley |
| 1866-67—L. C. Bancroft | 1939-40—Loren Heaton |
| 1868-69—J. E. Metcalf | |

The Advent Christian Society was formed in 1840 and held regular services in the Academy Hall until they leased their present church building from the Congregationalists. Sometime prior to 1891 this building and the land on which it stood were purchased from the Congregational Society by William Howden and Mrs. Susan Hall, members of the Advent Church, for in 1891 these two people deeded the property to the Advent Christian Society as long as they continued to hold meetings there in support of the Gospel. When meetings cease to be held there the property reverts to the heirs of the donors. There is no settled minister now but meetings are held several times a year when Reverend Burr Eggleston of Salisbury, the last settled minister, conducts meetings.

The Catholic Church, St. Ambrose, was built in 1877 under the direction of Reverend Patrick Cunningham, pastor of the Middlebury Catholic Church. It is located just beyond the Bristol High and Graded School building and faces the common from the west. The first mass was celebrated here January 1, 1878. The first resident priest, Reverend Michael Carmody, was appointed in 1893. He had the parochial residence adjoining the church, built between 1893 and 1896. At the present time Reverend Thomas Liddy is in charge and the congregation numbers about 600 members. There are three parish organizations: The Catholic Women's Club, organized in 1935 and consisting of 49 members; St. Ambrose Ladies Sodality, organized in 1938, consisting of 80 members and the Holy Name Society organized the same year which consists of 97 men and boys.

CEMETERIES OF BRISTOL

The earliest cemetery in town was located on Bristol Flats on the farm now owned by Alec Hammond. No trace of this now remains. The next cemetery in point of age is probably Greenwood situated at the foot of Stony Hill to the west of the village. Three stones in this cemetery bear testimony of early burial: one of a child, Amanda Soper, in 1802; the second a twin stone marking the graves of two daughters of George and Anna Sumner, one of whom died in 1804, the other in 1808. The third stone was placed there in memory of a Dafoote child who died in 1808.

Three other cemeteries which have been in existence for a long time and are still maintained are the Varney, Meehan and Briggs Hill cemeteries.

Land for the Catholic Cemetery, located north of Bristol village, was purchased in 1897 by Father Boyle and was blessed by the Very Reverend Thomas Lynch in 1898.



Methodist Church

Bristol Schools

1789—1900

The first school in the town of Bristol was a simple building of logs erected by voluntary contributions of labor in March, 1789, and located on Bristol Flats. The first action in town meeting in regard to schools was in March, 1793, when the eastern part of the town through the Notch was set off as one entire school district. This was subdivided two years later, in town meeting, and at the meeting in 1803 two northeastern districts were reunited. The first official report of the schools was made in the census of 1810 and was attested by the town clerk, James Day. At this time all children between the ages of four and eighteen were classed as scholars if they attended school at any time during the year. There was a total of 481 scholars in the ten districts which were named as follows; Center, North, Northeast, "Leg," United, Southeast, Hill, South, North Hill and Village. The district system of schools continued until March, 1893, when the nine districts then existing were brought under control of one committee and the town system was adopted.

The first attempts toward secondary education in Bristol were made in 1837. A new schoolhouse had to be built in the village at this time so the members of the district built a two-story building hoping to establish a "select school" in the upper story, but their attempts proved inadequate. The next action was on October 26, 1852, when an act was passed in the state legislature incorporating a group of Bristol citizens into a body to establish a high school in the village. In town meeting in 1855 the selectmen were authorized to raise \$600 during the next two years to aid in the construction of the "Bristol Literary and Scientific Institute" as the school was to be known. In return for this aid the town was allowed to hold town and freeman's meetings in a room on the second story. This room was used by the town until May 24, 1882, when it was sold to the school district for \$480. The building was completed in 1856 and was opened September 3 of that year when Horace Thomas, the first teacher in the new building, started his classes.

This building was the basis of the present High and Graded School building. The first change to take place in the building was sometime prior to 1871 when the building was moved from the corner of Maple and Pleasant Streets where the E. N. Dike house is now located to its present site, between the Baptist and Catholic Churches, facing the common. It was sometime after this that the District Number Four school building was moved from

its location which is now the site of the Catholic Rectory to Garfield Street where it has since been used for a private residence.

We are indebted to Mrs. John Selden for the following account of the schools from 1900 to 1939.

BRISTOL SCHOOLS 1900—1939

In the school catalog for 1907-08 the following interesting statements are found: "The first seven years of work is now accomplished in the main building. It was enlarged in 1898 by an addition which serves as the home of the Grammar School and the High School departments. The entire building is well lighted, heated and ventilated. Every effort is made to secure the sanitary and hygienic conditions so essential to the proper working of a school." This same catalog states that "tuition is free to all pupils whose parents or guardians reside in the town of Bristol."

The town report for this year shows that extensive repairs had been made, for \$939.74 was spent on the graded school building. The largest single item was for the furnace. Running water was also installed in this year.

April 2, 1907, the school directors of Bristol, Lincoln, Starksboro, Monkton and New Haven met and formed a union district for the purpose of employing a superintendent of schools. Mr. A. W. Eddy of New Haven was chosen for this position.

The catalog already mentioned furnished quite a complete picture of the schools at this time. Sup't. Eddy states that there were thirty-six pupils in the high school, with a total of two hundred sixty-two in the whole school. There were about one hundred twenty-five in the six rural schools in Bristol this year. It is noteworthy that under the direction of the State Board of Health there was an examination of eyes, ears, nose and throat of all pupils. Among the rules for the pupils is this: "Students are to deport themselves as ladies and gentlemen, and cheerfully comply with necessary regulations."

In his report in the town report for 1907-08, Mr. Eddy writes: "There is now a definite line of division between elementary and high school, so no town can evade the necessity of providing high school education in its true sense. The Bristol High School has received official approval as a high school of the first class and is on the printed list of such schools. To render the instruction in science effective, considerable addition has been made to the apparatus and facilities, so that class demonstration is now made in physics, with opportunity for a limited amount of individual work."

The following courses were offered: Latin, Scientific to prepare for college; English, to prepare for normal schools, and to "meet the needs of those who desire solid English education"; Commercial, consisted of commercial subjects in the fourth year.



Advent Christian Church

Latin, French and German were the languages one might study. History was given in all four years.

The science department offered courses in physiology, botany, zoology, physical geography, astronomy, physics and chemistry.

In all the grades, systematic instruction in music and drawing was given. In a previous town report (1905) Sup't. E. A. Hasseltine mentions the music, saying that "the interest created in our central school by the introduction of music continues to grow and its effects are apparent."

Teachers moved frequently from one school to another, often after only one term in a school. In 1906 Mr. Hasseltine suggests that "the contracts with the teachers be all made for the entire school year. This might obviate somewhat the frequent change of teachers.

In 1906-07 there were three full time teachers in the high school, the principal, the preceptress, and an instructor in science and pedagogy. There was also an instructor in stenography and typewriting and an instructor in drawing. In the nine grades, divided into primary, intermediate, and grammar departments, there were six teachers. Of the teachers listed in the 1903 town report, Miss Amy Sumner is the only one teaching in 1939. Miss Sumner retired in June, 1939, after having given forty-three years of faithful service to the children of Bristol.

The items which follow were taken from town reports. In 1908 a steel fire escape was added and frequent fire drills were held. The building was also wired this year.

In 1910-11, "the horse sheds that until lately stood at the rear of the building have been torn down and the boundary line established between the grounds of the school and those of the Baptist Church. The ninth grade has been eliminated this year which results in the high school now having eighty-one pupils."

In 1910 Mr. Eddy reports that "each school not previously provided with a flag and pole has been so provided. About seven hundred square feet of slate blackboard was put into the village school. Some provisions need to be made for more room as the capacity of the present high school quarters is now taxed beyond what it should be. A course in agriculture is offered as an elective and is being pursued by a class giving one period a day to the work through the year."

The next year, "the bubbling fountain in the entrance supplies a sanitary drinking place. More slate blackboard was added this year, and more comfortable seats."

1912 was an important year in the school's expansion. The Bristol Herald for September 19, 1912, has the following article about the addition to the building.

"A new heating system has been put in, and hereafter steam will be used. A large addition, 33x54 ft., has been built on the north side of the building. The addition is two stories high, the lower floor being divided

into two rooms, each 26x27 ft. The upper floor is one room. In this room there are fourteen large windows making it especially light. There are also fifteen electric lamps in this room. Hardwood floors, ceiling overhead and wainscoted is the way each room is finished. Two stairways four feet wide, with doors swinging outward at the bottom, lead to the upper room. This addition will supply all the room needed for some years, and pupils are to be congratulated on having such fine quarters in which to study and recite."

This addition, and the repairs in the heating, ventilating, and lighting systems cost \$8,879.41.

The superintendent reports also that "several changes have been made in the high school rooms and equipment. By taking out a partition, the old high school room has been restored to its original form and use. There are now two chemical tables, two physical tables, a table for biology with convenient cabinets. For work in physics, chemistry, botany, zoology, and general science, the Bristol High School is as well supplied with proper and modern apparatus as any school of its size in Vermont and this has been done very economically. (The financial statements show \$100.12 spent for laboratory equipment.) A typewriter has been purchased and a small class formed in business practice. A mimeograph (\$28) has also been purchased. This has been very useful both in high school and in the grades."

This machine is still in use in 1939, although a new liquid process duplicator has been added.

There were now twenty students in the high school from outside Bristol. It was shortly after this that the high school expanded quite rapidly, both in the courses that were offered and in the number of pupils.

In the fall of 1913 courses in agriculture and domestic science were added to the curriculum. Miss Ruby Vosburgh was the first teacher in domestic science, and Mr. John L. Selden came from Northampton, Mass. to teach the agricultural classes. He has since served as principal and supervising principal, and is now (1939) superintendent of the five towns forming this district. The towns are New Haven, Lincoln, Starksboro, Hinesburg and Bristol.

The catalog of 1914-15 states that "complete apparatus has been purchased for the domestic science and agricultural courses. The rooms devoted to these courses are newly equipped and are well adapted to the needs of the courses. A great improvement this year (1914) is the installation of a gas plant. We now manufacture our own gas for the three laboratories. The students in physics, chemistry, domestic science and agriculture are now enabled to perform all experiments with greater facility than formerly."

The Teacher Training Course was added about this time, as Miss Jessie Ross is listed as teacher in this course in the 1914-15 catalog. This course was especially planned for those who expected to teach in rural schools and were unable to secure a longer and more thorough training. The students did practice teaching in the grades.



Catholic Church and Rectory

Athletics and music were beginning to play an important part in the life of the school. The catalog has pictures of a baseball and a football team coached by Mr. John O. Baxendale. There is also a picture of the high school orchestra which was formed in 1913 under the leadership of Mr. Selden, who has continued to direct this activity until the present time. (1939)

The academic standing of the school may be judged by the fact that Bristol High School was listed as one of the schools approved by the New England College Entrance Board. This meant that "graduates from the academic courses were admitted on certificate without examination to the colleges which are members of the board." To be certified a student must maintain a grade of at least eighty.

The high school, especially, continued to grow as more and more pupils came from the surrounding towns to continue their education. In 1929, for instance, tuitions from other towns amounted to \$3,520.57. At this time only four rural schools remained open, as pupils from the other sections of town came to the graded school in the village. Transportation was beginning to be an important item in the cost of the schools.

About 1919 Bristol followed the example of many other high schools, changing to a Junior-Senior High School. This meant that in place of eight grades and a four year high school, there would be now only six grades making up the graded school. In addition to this the seventh and eighth grades would form a Junior High School and would be taught in part by the regular high school teachers, some of whose subjects would be introduced into these grades. This plan was adopted in order to make easier for the pupils the transition from the grades to the high school.

As the number of pupils increased, more class rooms were needed, making the building greatly overcrowded. An auditorium and gymnasium were also necessary for many of the school activities. June 2, 1930, a special town meeting was called to consider plans for a new building. The Bristol Herald of that week reports as follows: "Without a dissenting vote, the people of Bristol, assembled in Special Town Meeting at Holley Hall Monday evening, authorized the expenditure of \$30,000 for the erection of a supplementary school building, to provide additional classrooms for the relief of the congested condition which prevails in the present building, and to include a suitable hall for basketball and other athletic activities. The new building which will be of modern fireproof construction, will be located just north of the present structure, and connected with it by means of a passageway."

The school board at this time consisted of Mrs. B. E. Varney, A. E. Farr, and R. W. Shadrick.

The first basketball game was held in the new building February 27, 1931, before the last of the work was quite finished. This writer cannot resist including the following very enthusiastic report in the Bristol Herald of the same date: "With the finishing touches rapidly being complete, Bristol people may well gaze with pride and admiration at the new high

school gymnasium and auditorium. Of modern, fire proof construction throughout, the building embodies nearly every imaginable convenience and facility for the development of school activities of a varied nature. The gymnasium, which occupies the first floor, is of regulation size for basketball, being forty feet wide and sixty-four feet long. Two rows of bleachers extending along each side and a balcony containing two rows of seats provide ample room for spectators."

The second floor is used as an auditorium and is equipped with a stage adequate for dramas and other school purposes. This floor is also used as a classroom and has a row of blackboards on the south wall.

The approximate cost of the new building and equipment was \$34,000.

This addition has proved very valuable in the work of the school. It has also been used every summer since 1931 by the German Summer School of Middlebury College, which has become an important feature of our village life. Students in the high school have the privilege of attending demonstration classes in the summer school and are given credits for this work.

In preparing this sketch of Bristol schools, one is impressed by the many changes that have taken place in the last forty years. The grades and the high school are so much larger and the curriculum has been greatly changed and enlarged. At the opening of the school year in 1939, there are two hundred fifteen pupils in the Junior-Senior High School, with seven teachers besides the principal. This means that the cost of the schools to the town is much greater. But it also means that the students are receiving many advantages that were not theirs in the earlier period, and that the schools are influencing the lives of many more people.

In order to make the record more complete, it seems advisable to include this list of the men who have served the school as principal.

Charles S. Paige 1892-1902. Mr. Paige is considered by many to be the one who put the school on a firm foundation during this period. He also encouraged more of the students to complete their courses and to go to college.

W. H. Botsford—1902-1906

C. M. Hazen—1906-1907

F. H. Wallace—1907-1909

B. E. Hicks—1909-1910

G. G. Newell—1910-1913

J. O. Baxendale—1913-1915

R. W. Hedges—1915-1917

J. L. Selden—1917-1935—From 1928-1935 Mr. Selden was supervising principal of the town of Bristol.

L. R. Rowe—1935-1939

J. L. Gunn—1939-

Note: The first class graduated from the high school in 1888, and the first graduation exercises were held in 1889.



Bristol High and Graded School



"Gauge-Moore" Community House

The compilers of this book feel that the present high standing of the schools in Bristol is due to the efficient work of John Selden, who for twenty-seven years as teacher, principal and superintendent has given his best efforts to the school.

We wish also to pay tribute to Miss Amy Sumner, who taught in the first or second grade in the village school forty-three years. When Miss Sumner retired from teaching a year ago, her former pupils numbered about two thousand. She had taught the second, and in some cases the third generation in a family.

GERMAN SCHOOL

1771814

The Middlebury College School of German is conducted in Bristol for six weeks during July and August, the classes being held in the Bristol High School building and out-of-doors on the common and the grounds of the Bristol Inn. The German School was established in Middlebury in 1915, the first of the Middlebury College language schools, but was discontinued in 1918 due to the World War. When it was reopened in 1931 it was removed to Bristol in accordance with the two leading principles of the Middlebury Idea—isolation from other educational projects and concentration on one subject. The students who are pledged to speak no language other than German throughout their six weeks course, are housed in private homes and board at the Bristol Inn where all their social activities are held. Dr. Ernst Feiser, professor of German at Johns Hopkins University, has been head of the school since its reorganization in 1931. A class for beginners, being a practical demonstration in teaching high school German, is available to high school students in Bristol.

BRISTOL POSTOFFICE

We are indebted to Munsill's "Early History of Bristol" for the account of the early postoffices in town. Mr. Munsill obtained his statistics from the Postoffice Department in Washington, but their first three books were burned in 1836 so that the first postmaster listed by them is Jacob Caldwell, 1804. Mr. Munsill states that he remembers that Thaddeus McLaughlin was postmaster previous to this time and that he kept the office in the house built by his father in 1800 at the four corners a mile and a quarter west of the village, the place now known as Daniels' Corner. This is evidence that the first postoffice was established in Bristol sometime between 1801 and 1803. Jacob Caldwell was succeeded in 1805 by his brother Isaac, but the office remained in the same place, in a log cabin kept as a public house by the two brothers, four miles northeast of Bristol village on the road to Starksboro. The postoffice was kept here for ten years, until 1815 when Joseph Otis was appointed postmaster and moved the office to his home in Bristol village. Since that time the office has never been outside of the village, although for many years it was kept in

the home or place of business of the current postmaster. In 1861 Winter Holley was postmaster and the office was kept in his store. The first separate residence of the postoffice of which we have a record was on the north side of Main Street where the First National Store is now located. After the fire of 1898 the office was removed to the Drake-Farr block where it remained until fire destroyed the block in 1914. After being located for a short time in the Grange Hall on Garfield Street it was moved to the Lathrop block which was built on the site which the Drake-Farr block had occupied. This is its present location.

In 1810 the mail was brought on horseback once a week from the Middlebury postoffice. Sometime between 1810 and 1849 the service was changed to a semi-weekly mail. The Burlington-Rutland Railroad was opened its entire distance in 1849, after which the delivery of mail to Bristol was daily. The date of change of delivery for the Bristol mail from Middlebury to New Haven depot is not definitely known, although it must have occurred sometime in the 1860's. After this the mail was brought by stage from the New Haven depot twice a day. The stage continued to carry the mail for a few months after the Bristol Railroad was established in 1892, but it was soon brought by train. Since the Bristol Railroad stopped running in 1930 the mail is again brought by private carrier from New Haven depot but there are now four daily deliveries to the Bristol postoffice instead of two.

After 1900 there was a marked progress in postal service in the town. In 1901 the first R. F. D. route was charted from the Bristol postoffice through Bristol Flats, South Bristol and parts of New Haven and Middlebury. Loren Jacobs was the first carrier. Within a year two other routes were started, Number 2 with George Dike as carrier went north and covered part of Monkton while Route 3 covered parts of Lincoln and Starksboro and had Fred Manum for its first carrier. About 1905 a fourth route was established through Bristol Notch and into Lincoln. M. U. Ross was carrier for this route. In 1923 Bristol became a second class postoffice. In 1939 Routes 2 and 4 were consolidated. Russell Lowell now covers both routes, Walter Sheldon is carrier for Route 1 and Roy Bicknell for Number 3.

HOSTELRIES OF BRISTOL

One of the first public houses in Bristol was a log house built by Henry McLaughlin in 1788 at what is now known as Daniels' Corner. In 1800 he built a brick house near the log cabin and continued his work as host to the public. This was the house where the first postoffice was located. The log house of the Caldwell Brothers, four miles northeast of Bristol village, on the Starksboro road was also a public house and it was here



Bristol House 1887



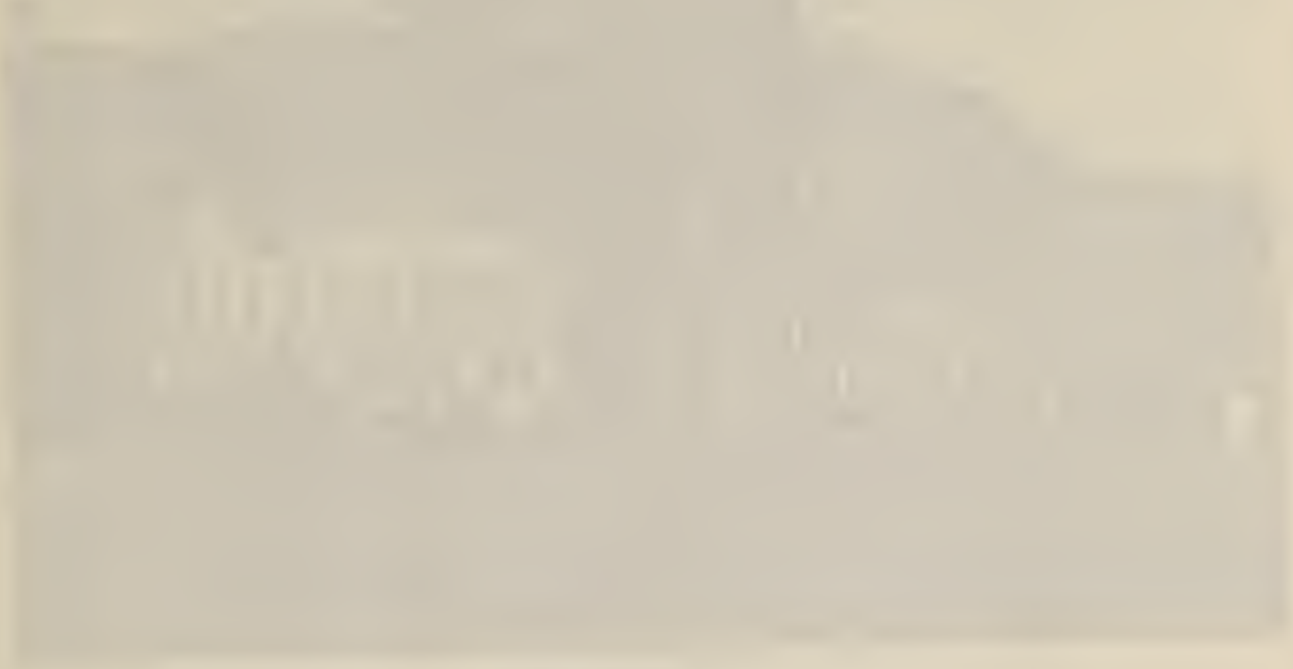
Church Street Looking West
Methodist Church (Before Remodeling) At Right

that the postoffice was located from 1804-15. Robert Holley opened a house in Bristol village in 1808 and, at a later date, a house on Bristol Flats built by Robert Dunshee and sold to V. Miller was kept as a tavern by Mr. Miller. It was the house north of the Welden Prime house which was torn down in the early 1900's. A cellar hole remains to mark the site of the tavern.

The public house of early times which is of most interest to us today was that of Abram Gaige which was burned in 1817 and rebuilt by Mr. Gaige in 1820. This was the beginning of the Bristol House or Bristol Inn as it is now known. Mr. Gaige was landlord until 1835 and from that time until 1871 the place changed hands several times. In 1871 the hotel was bought by Mr. J. J. Ridley who continued as landlord until about 1896 except for a few months in 1893 between his sale of the house to Q. E. Grover and W. E. Frank and his repurchase of it. A rival hotel, the Commercial House, owned by Ryland Hatch made its appearance in the 80's. Each hotel had its coach and two (not four) to convey passengers to and from New Haven Depot. Mr. Ridley advertised his house in the Bristol Herald in this way (taken from an issue in 1888): "It is 5½ miles from New Haven Depot. Stage connects with trains twice daily. Telegraph and livery connected with the house." Mr. Ridley was succeeded by Thomas Leonard, who in turn, was succeeded by Clement Burnham in 1906, who is the present proprietor. Mr. and Mrs. Burnham remodeled the house inside and out, redecorated the interior and planted shrubs, greatly increasing the attractiveness of the Inn. In 1930 they built the annex on the north side made necessary by their increasing trade. The fine service and excellent cooking which has brought people from surrounding towns for banquets and family parties has made the Inn well known in this section of the state and it is now one of Bristol's best assets. It is here that the students board during the six week's session of the German School.

Due to the importance of horses in the early days of the town the livery and sales stables formed almost as important a part in the town's development as the hostelries and were closely connected with them. The livery stables of the Commercial House, R. F. Hatch, Proprietor, of the Bristol House, the Park Livery and F. Landon & Son were landmarks. The Hier livery stable, situated on West Street was of short duration. W. A. Lawrence, who donated the Lawrence Memorial Library, sold wagons and harnesses and then added a sales stable which was located back of his home at the corner of North and Spring Street. This grew into a large business and carloads of western horses were brought to this stable and sold. Later Mr. Lawrence sold automobiles. F. Landon & Son also conducted a sales stable in connection with their livery service and later they, too, turned to the sales of automobiles as more profitable. The Hatch stables burned in 1896 and never were rebuilt. Beginning about 1910, with the increase in autos the livery business died out; the Bristol Inn maintained its livery service longer than any other establishment. The horse sheds

belonging to the churches were torn down and gradually the public watering troughs and hitching posts were removed. At present there is nothing to show what an important part the sales and livery stables played in the development of the town.





Bristol Inn



Bristol Inn Annex

Manufacturing in Bristol

Manufacturing in Bristol, as in any newly settled township, was first limited to the wants of the inhabitants so that the first mills to appear were sawmills, gristmills and forges. The first gristmill of which there is a record is a gristmill which was built in 1792 by three brothers, John, William and James O'Brien. This mill was built in the southern part of town on the brook which now bears their name. The first sawmill was built by Amos Scott in 1791. Forges were built in various parts of town for the making of bar iron, the ore being brought from the Monkton ore bed and from Crown Point, New York, the latter being a heavier ore which was combined with the Monkton ore in smelting. The bar iron thus made was used in making plow shares, crow bars, cart and wagon tires and many other tools and necessities. Some of the forges made more bar iron than was used in Bristol and neighboring towns were supplied with the product.

There was an iron mine in the western part of the town. Rowland Robinson in his book, "Three Rivers," mentions this mine and says that ore was taken from it to make the cannon balls used by the American fleet in the battle of Lake Champlain.

Eight forges in all were built and the history of the one built in 1802 by Henry Franklin, Captain Gurdon Munsill, John Arnold and Obadiah Beal is so interesting that we quote an account of it from Harvey Munsill's history: "This forge did a good and profitable business for about seven years until the month of June, 1809 when it was burnt. This forge after it was rebuilt did a good, profitable business for seven years and then in the month of June, 1816, was again burnt. At this time the forge was owned by several different persons. It was again rebuilt by its owners very soon after its destruction the second time and continued to do a very large business for seven years more when again in the month of June, 1823 it was for the third time entirely consumed by fire. But not discouraged the owners again rebuilt the forge, and as before, continued to do a good, profitable business for about seven years, when on the 26th day of July, 1830, it was carried off by the great and memorable flood, leaving scarcely a vestige of the same, or of the dam across the river to mark the place where it once stood.—The forge has not been rebuilt since the great freshet—."

Another gristmill, built of stone, in the east part of the village, in 1818 is of especial interest to us of today, as it was one of the four buildings that formed the foundation of the present Drake, Smith & Co. factory which

is in active operation today. The upper part of the stone mill was used as a pill box factory. Between 100 and 200 cords of white birch were used annually in manufacturing these boxes and several people were employed here. A sawmill, built sometime before 1836, formed the easterly boundary of the gristmill and shortly after that a tan-bark mill was built close-by. About 1845 the fourth building, a carding mill, was added to this group by Israel Eddy who later passed it on to his son-in-law, Sam Hasseltine, who abandoned the mill about 1880 and the machinery was then moved to Hinesburg. In the meantime, Solomon Drake, owner of both the grist and tan-bark mills sold the former but retained control of the tannery which he left to his son-in-law, Horace Farr. As late as 1865 leather was tanned in the mill and a cobbler and harness shop was operated at the Farr house on East Street, now known as the Dupee house. In 1880 the carding mill building was sold to A. J. Eastman who manufactured butter tubs there for five years. He then sold to E. W. Smith and T. S. Drake who formed the original partnership of Drake & Smith for the manufacture of bee keepers' supplies and boxes. They also bought the business which A. E. Manum had established, making the bee keepers' supplies. In the early '80's Drake & Smith acquired the rights of the gristmill, sawmill and tan-bark mill, thus consolidating the four factories into one plant. About 1894 Charles McGee purchased several shares in the business and in 1935, in company with his son-in-law, Richard Smith and grandson Clement Smith, he bought the remaining shares from the heirs of the late E. W. Smith. The property for the first time came under the control of one family. Mr. McGee and Richard Smith are now dead and Clement Smith has moved but the property is owned by Mrs. Richard Smith and under the able management of Reuben Norton and Horace Farr the factory continues a thriving business making woden boxes, silos, water tubs, door frames and sashes to order.

In 1862 Howden, Daniels & Company incorporated and began the manufacture of doors, sashes and blinds. In 1867 David Bosworth bought Daniels' interest and the firm became known as Howden, Bosworth & Company. There was too keen competition in the manufacture of doors and blinds for the company to be very successful and a change was made after the flood in 1869 had damaged the plant to some extent. At this time they decided to manufacture caskets and the first one made by the firm was put on the market in 1870. In 1877 the name was changed to the Bristol Manufacturing Company which was known for a number of years as one of the largest manufacturers of caskets in the country but which has now closed, having ended all activity in the plant in 1939.

For a number of years, while the Bristol Manufacturing Company was manufacturing caskets, a separate industry known as the O. K. Clothes Dryer Company was housed in the factory belonging to the Bristol Manufacturing Company and manufactured clothes dryers of maple wood. The manufacture of clothes dryers was discontinued several years before the casket factory was closed.

Close to this plant, but independent of it was the James Whitney Chair Company, founded about 1850. Whitney finally gave up the manufacture of chairs and in company with M. P. Varney began making caskets. This enterprise was not very successful and the plant was sold to the Bristol Manufacturing Company which tore down one of the two Whitney buildings and erected a paint shop on the site.

Another manufacturing concern in Bristol which was very successful for a time and was one of the largest of its kind in the country was the Bartlett Plow Manufactory. Much of the sod on the western prairies was broken by the plows manufactured at the Bartlett plant in Bristol. In 1847 a small shop burned in which plows were made near Quaker Street in the town of Lincoln. The plows were made by David Tabor, Russell Tabor and Stephen Bartlett. A place to manufacture by using water power was sought and located at the junction of the New Haven River and Baldwin's Creek. After land was purchased the new site was named Rocky Dale. Five dwelling houses were built, a temporary foundry and shop for continuing the plow business were constructed and operated to begin with by using steam, while a water mill and a larger separate foundry were being constructed. The Tabors sold to S. Bartlett & Co., who built a larger water mill containing a saw mill, with flutter wheels to operate the saw mill, and a large Brest water wheel to run the plow machinery. Castings were made in the first foundry to build the large water wheel and saw mill parts, as well as for the manufacture of road scrapers, cultivators, plows, hay cutters, drags, and harrows. Some years after the larger water mill was constructed means for utilizing water power were much improved and later makes of water wheels were used, and clapboards, spruce lumber, and nail keg staves were produced. After spruce lumber began to become scarce the manufacture of pill boxes, and small turned wood parts from white birch was added.

About 1880 fire destroyed the factory of the Barlett Plow Works but the machinery and right to manufacture plows had been previously sold to the Patrick family in Hinesburg.

Near the plow factory was Rockwood Barrett's chair stock and butter tub factory which employed 12 men and used 500,000 feet of lumber annually in the manufacture of chair stock and butter tubs. Mr. Barrett was a Rutland man and eventually moved the firm to Rutland.

A sawmill in South Bristol, owned by a Mr. Varney, changed hands in the late 1870's and the new firm of Sumner & Prime began the manufacture of bee keeper's supplies. Later C. E. Gove bought into the firm which became known as Prime & Gove. The mill burned in 1894 and was not rebuilt.

In the last half of the century several industries developed which had a short existence and in many cases the dates of the starting and closing of the firms cannot be obtained. There was the mill for tar coating of shingles which was situated beside the O'Brien Brook in South Bristol and

the wagon shops of Albert Dunshee & Son (Herbert), Arba Mansfield and J. H. Wright. Three other wagon makers who also added blacksmithing to their trade were F. Greenough, Octave Cushman and N. McIntyre. Harnesses were made by Ira Farnham and William Battles and later by Ira Eastman, Heman Hill and J. Z. Gaudet. Peter Lander operated a cigar making factory for a time, employing about 20 hands.

The flood of 1869 destroyed the old red grist mill, at the foot of Mill Hill, but the owner, R. D. Stewart, rebuilt it. Later the Bristol Manufacturing Company took it over as part of their plant and Mr. Stewart opened a feed store in the Gale store which had been moved to South Street. In 1896 Arthur Kilbourn and E. W. Smith formed a partnership and started the Cyclone Gristmill for custom grinding and a feed store. In 1900 Mr. Kilbourn bought his partner's interest and became sole owner. The 1924 fire destroyed the Kilbourn mill but it was soon rebuilt and a separate office building was added. In addition to this mill there is now a branch store at New Haven Junction which serves as a warehouse and feed store. Mr. Kilbourn sells farm machinery, cement and fertilizer as well as grain. His sons Francis and John are associated with him.

In 1897 the Cold Spring Creamery on the New Haven River, owned by Evarts and Eastman was doing a thriving business and had just installed new machinery at its branch creamery in New Haven Mills. At this time the Riverside Condensed Milk Company was formed and built a factory across the river from the creamery at a cost of several thousand dollars. Evarts and Eastman were both members of the Riverside Company which took over control of the creamery. At first the firm prospered taking in from 30,000 to 40,000 pounds of milk daily but trouble soon arose. The condensery was closed and the machinery was sent to Worcester in 1901. Mike Hannon bought both the creamery and condensery buildings at auction. In 1903 he leased the creamery to a Boston firm and there is no further record of its activities. Except for two winters when it was used for roller skating the condensery building remained idle until 1910 when Mr. Hannon sold it to Homer Hewitt and Fred Wright who established a wood turning factory employing from eight to ten persons and doing a yearly business of \$5,000 to \$8,000. The factory burned in 1914 and was not rebuilt.

The same year that the condensery was built, 1897, A. L. Cain leased a section of land at the corner of Pine and Maple Streets and began the construction of a factory for the making of wood novelties which was finished the next year. The factory, which was a successful enterprise, employed from 10 to 20 hands. After the factory burned in 1903 Mr. Cain was too disheartened to rebuild but local men formed a stock company, known as the Bristol Novelty Company and rebuilt the plant. After a time the business ceased and the factory was left vacant.

In 1912 the factory of the New Haven Mills Manufacturing Company at New Haven Mills, owned by M. I. Thomas, burned. A special village meeting was immediately called in Bristol at which it was proposed that



Main Street About 1900

the village buy the Novelty Company factory and present it to Mr. Thomas, with tax exemption for five years, provided that he would locate in Bristol. The village officers, however, found that they had no authority to buy property. Mr. Thomas offered to pay \$2500 for the factory. This offer was accepted and the remaining \$1500 of the purchase price was provided by the townspeople who were very anxious to have the plant located here. This was the beginning of the Vermont Box Company which is now owned by Ford Thomas, son of M. I. Thomas. It is now a thriving enterprise employing between 40 and 45 hands.

Charles Frary started a factory on the New Haven River, east of Bristol village in 1908 and conducted a successful wood turning business there until 1934 when he sold it to Frank Elliott. The factory is now closed.

In 1917 Stafford & Sons of Morrisville took over a last block factory in Bristol which they sold to the Chamber of Commerce, with all the machinery and the tenement house, in 1932. In 1934 the factory was sold to Carl Aldrich who had a monument carving business.

In 1936 the A. Johnson Lumber Company purchased the Fred Hammond farm on Bristol Flats, where at a large outlay a number of buildings were constructed. In 1938 the plant was moved here from South Lincoln where it had been operating for over 10 years. The company had just gotten established when the flood occurred in the fall of 1938, causing much damage, and large quantities of logs and building materials were carried downstream by the New Haven River. Much of these materials was later recovered. The firm, under the management of Fred Johnson, operates on a large scale, buying logs in the vicinity and supplying all kinds of building materials as well as doing custom sawing.

HISTORY OF THE LITTLE NOTCH

The section known as the "Little Notch" is supposed to have derived its name from the fact that it is the smaller of two notches or clefts in the mountain range which extends through the entire length of the town of Bristol in a north and south direction. The Little Notch supplies the outlet for the watershed of the entire southeastern corner of the town, and covers approximately three thousand acres. The first growth or original stand of timber covering this section at early settlement was spruce, birch, maple, pine and hemlock, spruce being of greater quantity and value in the lumber industry.

Five small streams from different directions join together forming what is known as the Notch Brook. This is the same brook which is called "O'Brien Brook" in the early records of Bristol, after the three O'Brien brothers who operated a mill on the stream. A body of water known as Gilmore Pond is situated about one and a quarter miles easterly from the main highway leading through the Little Notch. This pond formed by springs covers some ten acres, with a depth of three feet and a black

muddy bottom. The outlet of this pond is one of the five streams that form the Notch Brook. The name is supposed to have been derived from a man by the name of Gilmore who at an early period had a mill about fifty rods down stream from the outlet. Decayed timber of the old flume and log dam can still be seen. There are also three to four acres of cleared land adjacent to this pond which would make it seem reasonable that there must have been a habitation at one time although no transfer of title to the land appears on any record.

The first road leading to the "Notch" left the main highway near the school-house in South Bristol turning to the east and following up the westerly side of the Notch Brook. In the year of 1859 the present highway leading up the easterly side of the Notch Brook was opened for use affording not only a better grade but also a connection with the road leading south from Bristol Village along the foot of the mountain, this section having been settled for some time. Late in the year of 1860 the road was completed over the mountain to the southern part of the town of Lincoln. At the point where the road crosses the divide into Lincoln the altitude is 1899 feet above sea level as given by the United States Government survey.

The date of the first settlement in the "Little Notch" is unknown, but it would seem that lumbering was the occupation that attracted people to this locality. Records show that on November 11, 1831, Rufus Barnard sold to A. and C. Curtis ten acres off the south end of lot No. 6 in the fourth division of town lots for a mill site. This site was at the point where the five brooks unite and for one hundred years following a mill was in operation there. But nothing in the lumber industry of importance was established until the late 60's, when Mr. A. J. Eastman and Mr. Durfee built a saw mill for the manufacture of lumber, clapboards and butter tubs which were in great demand at that time. This mill was soon destroyed by fire, thus ending the first real attempt of a lumber industry in the "Little Notch."

In 1879 Joseph Jimmo built a lumber mill below the Eastman site which he operated for a few years. In the summer of 1880 Noah Lathrop and H. L. Parmelee purchased Mr. Eastman's mill site, together with two houses, a blacksmith shop and a barn. They then erected another mill on this site. In 1885 Mr. Lathrop bought Mr. Parmelee's interest in the firm. In 1903 the mill burned and was immediately rebuilt. That year Clarence Lathrop entered the firm which was known thereafter as N. Lathrop and Son. It grew to be the largest lumber concern in Addison County turning out dressed lumber, shingles and clapboards. The business continued until 1925 when all the timber of commercial value had been cut in this section.

Among the early settlers living in log houses in the decade 1850-60 were families of the following names: Harris, Bigelow, Stilson, Peckham, Adams, Scarborough, Thomas, Shadrick, Newton. In the next two decades many more families settled here, among who we find these names: Cormier, Brown, Cousino, Odette, Eubar, Carpenter, Jimmo, Parmelee, Lathrop,

Booska, Pécott, Duquette, Bone, Rivers, Sears, Swinyer, Vincent, Devold, Bellman.

At first small clearings were established and log houses erected to be followed before long by frame houses. Farming on a small scale was attempted but the land was so uneven and the soil so rocky that it never proved successful. Many of the settlers turned to lumbering, selling their logs to the mill owners, while others converted their hardwood into charcoal which they sold to the owners of forges in Bristol and adjacent towns. There was a very good market for charcoal around 1850.

In 1879 school district Number 9 was organized and a school building was erected about 20 rods north of what is now the Harry Vincent farmhouse. The school was entirely surrounded by spruce timber and had an attendance of 14 pupils. As the lumber industry increased the population became larger and in the school year 1887-88 there was an attendance at the school of 50 pupils, all in charge of one teacher. About 1900 a two room school was built and for approximately ten years two teachers were employed. In the spring of 1938 the school was discontinued as there were not enough pupils to maintain it longer.

After N. Lathrop and Son discontinued their lumber business in 1925 the population of the Notch decreased rapidly so that in 1938 there were only two families left there. At the present time, however interest is again being aroused in the location and now, in 1940, there are six families residing there, one of whom has just erected a new house.

The foregoing account of Bristol Notch was written by Mrs. Clarence E. Lathrop.



Aerial View of Bristol with Main Range of Green Mountains in Background

(2) FORMER COURSE OF BRISTOL RAILROAD

(1) ROAD REPLACING PLANK ROAD

Military History of Bristol

The first militia company in Bristol was organized June 7, 1791. It was the 10th Company, 2nd regiment, 6th Brigade Vermont Infantry. Cyprian Eastman was chosen captain and Benjamin Clapp, lieutenant. Another company, the Light Infantry, was organized June 1, 1808, with John Kilbourn, captain and Jehiel Saxton, lieutenant. Very gay were these infantrymen in their uniforms which consisted of scarlet coats with white and buff facings, white pants with black half-gaiters, white vest, black stockings and citizens round hat with a brass piece in front. These companies did their full share in helping enforce the Embargo act of 1808 and in fighting in the War of 1812. Sixty-six men from Bristol took part in the Battle of Plattsburg.

The records of the G. A. R. were burned in the fire of 1924 so the following list of Civil War veterans enlisted from Bristol may be incomplete. It was obtained from the H. P. Smith "History of Addison County" and from gravestones in Greenwood Cemetery. The list: J. M. Baeon, A. F. Baker, E. R. Baneroft, C. L. Bartlett, H. R. Beekwith, R. A. Bird, H. Bowers, C. Bowers, H. Brooks, W. Brooks, Napoleon Bush, Moses Bushee, A. Butterfield, A. Bezner, J. Bezner, W. E. Bieknell, C. Bowers, G. H. Bunker, E. D. Barnes, Abraham Butler, Henry Butler, R. C. Brown, E. D. Chase, E. D. Chillson, H. Cook, M. Callihan, Joseph Clapper, Charles Clapper, A. Danforth, G. E. Drake, O. B. Drake, W. B. Dunshee, F. Daniel, C. E. Dushon, F. M. Dwyer, Philip Dwyer, Noble F. Dunshee, J. C. Emerson, L. C. Finch, E. J. Foster, A. N. Gauthier, C. Grimes, B. J. Grinnell, F. W. Grinnell, G. W. Green, Frank Greenough, Nicholas Gravel, Ed Guinan, John Hagan, David Hamblin, J. B. Hastings, B. F. Hiekins, J. Hines, J. W. Hilton, E. R. Jacobs, U. D. Jacobs, A. A. Leland, Noah Lathrop, John MeVar, H. C. Myers, James Moody, S. S. Morgan, F. Mullings, G. Mullens, Richard Munroe, Daniel Munroe, C. R. Myers, H. D. May, Napoleon McIntyre, A. E. Manum, M. Melian, W. W. Needham, H. Noland, C. E. Nelson, J. Oakes, Charles O'Brian, Horace O'Brian, Loren Oreutt, H. L. Prime, A. A. Peters, P. Phinney, S. Preston, Charles Princee, S. W. Palmer, E. B. Palmer, D. Patno, Israel Plain, H. C. Powers, D. C. Quimby, J. B. Quimby, C. J. S. Randall, Horace Robbins, W. T. Richardson, N. Roberts, Alfred Rouell, John Searborough, William Searborough, John Shadrick, James Shadrick, William Shadrick, William Shadrick (these two were uncle and nephew), Isaae Shadrick, R. Sharlow, Benj. Sheldon, J. Sheldon, L. Steady, Jr., F. Strait, E. Tart, N. Tart, D. R. Thompson, N. C. Thompson, E. Tatro, E. Vradenburg, S. Vradenburg, C. B.

Warner, C. E. P. Wheeler, E. C. Wright, J. Weaver, L. F. Weaver, L. S. Walker, Ed Whittemore, George Whittemore, Daniel Whittemore, Jr., C. Yattaw. The last veteran of the Civil War was Lester Bryant who died in 1936 at the age of 98. Mr. Bryant did not enlist from Bristol but came to Bristol from Lincoln a few years before his death.

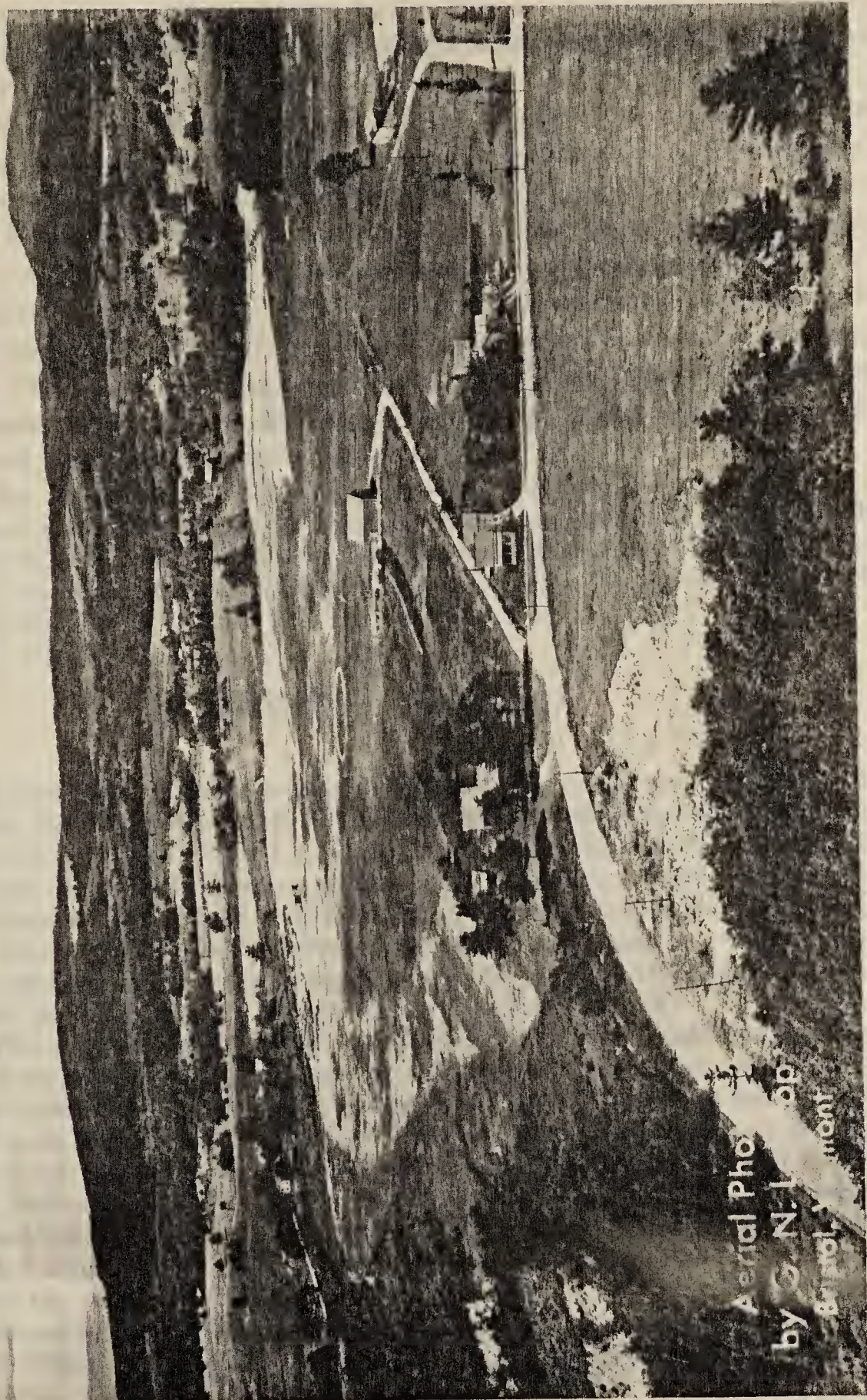
The observance of Memorial Day in Bristol began in 1889, the money being obtained by popular subscription at first. Soon money was donated by the town at the annual town meeting for this purpose to the Bristol post of the G. A. R., known as the W. C. Dunton Post. The money is now donated to the American Legion. In 1928 the Women's Relief Corps, affiliated with the G. A. R., placed a bronze tablet on the park in memory of the soldiers from Bristol who participated in the Civil War.

A chapter of another Civil War organization was formed in Bristol sometime during the 1890's. The N. F. Dunshee Camp Sons of Veterans was formed at this time and met regularly for many years. The camp was named after Colonel N. F. Dunshee because of his splendid record as a soldier in the Civil War.

There are no records of Spanish-American War veterans obtainable. The only men from Bristol who took part in this war whose names we know were David Bosworth, Judson Hanks, Vern Brooks, Harold Foyles, Mr. Tabor, Walter Shedrick and Claude Guinan.

A record of the Bristol men who served in the World War was obtained from the bronze tablet in the park, which was placed there by the Bristol post of the American Legion. These men were: Irwin Atkins, Leighton Betts, Leon Bingham, Edward Blanchard, John Blanchard, Wallace Booska, Fay Brown, Robert Brown, Conrad Brown, Cyrus Butler, N. J. Camarra, Able Chandler, Harrison Chapman, Ernest Clapper, Wallace Clapper, Carl Clark, George Cormier, Willard Cormier, Harold Coursey, Francis Cousino, John Dalton, Walter Danforth, Alfred Devold, George Devold, Volney Durfee, Henry Dwire, John Dwire, William Edmunds, Peter French, Howard Guinan, Alfred Hagan. William Hier, Vernon Hill*, Bennett Hughes, Newton Hurlburt, Clyde Hutchins, Guy Hutchins, Ray Hutchins, Walter Irish, Chester Jacobs, Casper Jones, Francis Kilbourn, Grover Langeway, Lewis Lathrop, Alphas Lattrell, Philip Lawrence, George Lee, Howard Levarn, Russell Lowell, Walter Mason, Clinton McCormick, Howard McCormick, Rolla McCormick, Charles McKinnon, Daniel McKinnon, Thomas McKinnon, Bernard MeShane, Laurenee MeShane, George Mott, George Murray, Cardell Norton, Guy O'Bryan, Ralph Palmer, Leverette Palmer, Vernie Pecor, William Philips, Arthur Prime, Dean Prime*, Albia Provoncha, Henry Rathbun, Harold Shiverette, Truman Shiverette*, Carl Smith, Clement Smith, Francis St. George, Berley Sumner, Cecil Sumner, Ford Thomas, Norman Thompson, James Turner, Melwood Shephard, Linwood White, Dr. Harold Williamson, Donald Wilson. These men were in the army.

**Killed in action. (Shiverette died in camp.)*



Aerial Photo
by G. N. L. L. L.
Bristol, Vermont

Bristol Airport View to North

Navy men from Bristol were Leslie Billings (died soon after joining), Arthur Drummond, Lyman Frary, Leonard Lafayette, Merrill Prime, Carroll Stearns, Fay Thompson, Marvin Wendell.

The order of American Legion, Post Number 19, was organized in Bristol soon after the World War with Dr. Williamson as Commander. Meetings were first held in the Town Hall, then in the old Grange Hall on Garfield Street. There was very little interest shown for some years and the charter was surrendered. They reorganized about five years later and now, in 1940, have 43 members. The post includes veterans from Lincoln as well as from Bristol. Meetings are now held every two weeks at the Community House. The present officers are: Commander, Lyle Churchill; 1st Vice Commander, John Parent; 2nd Vice Commander, Irving Warburton; Secretary and Treasurer, Melwood Shephard.

The American Legion Auxiliary was also formed, functioned a short time and then gave up its charter. The Auxiliary reorganized in 1935 and now has a membership of 29. The present officers are: President, Mrs. Bernard Hayes; Secretary, Mrs. Russell Lowell; Treasurer, Mrs. Melwood Shephard.

BRISTOL HERALD

Bristol was without a paper published in town until 1879. In the spring of that year, Myron F. Wilson who had worked for the Burlington Free Press and who wanted a paper of his own, came to Bristol with his three sons, Myron W., James and Ben, at the direction of Solon Burroughs of Vergennes. They were well pleased with the reception given them and set up their hand press in rooms over Bush and Patterson's store where the first Bristol Herald was printed in May, 1879. A fourth son, Preston K., who had been working in Minnesota soon joined the staff.

The second Herald office was in the Drake-Farr block and the third and last location is its present one on South Street. The paper was always printed under the firm name of Wilson Brothers but before it had reached its 50th anniversary Ben and P. K. Wilson had died and James' son, Donald, had entered the firm. In the late spring of 1929 the Herald was sold to Ralph Merritt, editor of the Middlebury Register, and the two papers were published in Middlebury by the Middlebury Register and Bristol Herald Company, Inc. In 1934 the Brandon Union was joined with these two and the publishing company is now known as the Otter Valley Press. The present editor of the three papers is Wilder Foote of Middlebury. The Herald Office in Bristol is kept open for job printing and for receiving local news. Mrs. J. C. Norton is in charge.

The only one of the Wilson Brothers surviving is James. Myron W. died in 1930 and just before his death Dr. E. F. Johnstone wrote this poem in his honor:

*Myron at eighty, still one of the boys,
Loved and respected by sinner and saint,
Sharing their sorrow as well as their joys
Fighting the battle without a complaint.
Cheerful and human, as well as humane,
Always believing that right must prevail
Laughing alike in the sunshine and rain
Always with those who are blazing the trail.
Prophet and patriarch, teacher and sage,
Friend and philosopher, always serene
Calm and resourceful while multitudes rage
Peacemaking general, standing between.
Say it today, do not wait till tomorrow
Not in a whisper subdued, but a shout
Ever in sorrow and ever in gladness
Myron we love you, you faithful old scout.*

In 1890, three years before his death feeling that he did not have long to live, Myron F., the founder of the "Bristol Herald," conceived the idea of utilizing the iron arch from the 125 year old Tuff hand press which he had used for so many years as a base for the marble headstone set on the Wilson lot in Greenwood Cemetery. This unique idea of Mr. Wilson's received notice in the "Newspaper News," printed in Sydney, Australia, a clipping from which was sent to the Otter Valley Press by L. H. Shipman, a former resident of Vermont.

HOLLEY HALL

It is apparent that the residents of Bristol found the town room in the school building unsatisfactory and at a special meeting May 24, 1882, they voted to sell the town room and all its appointments to the school district for \$480.00. March 6, 1883, at the annual meeting it was voted to appoint a committee of three to investigate the matter of building a town hall. Their report, which was to have been given in May, was not given until July. At the meeting at that time Mrs. Cornelia Holley Smith, daughter of Winter Holley and granddaughter of Robert Holley who settled in Bristol in 1795, offered to give the town the land on which her father's store had stood, providing that they would build a town hall upon that site within the next three years. The offer was accepted, the building was completed in September, 1884, and was named Holley Hall after Mrs. Smith's father. It is a brick building with a clock in the belfry. The big room inside where town meetings are held has a seating capacity of 500. For many years it was rented to churches and various organizations when-



Holley Hall



Holley Hall And Drake-Farr Block

ever a large auditorium was needed. Until 1930 when the school auditorium and gymnasium was built it was rented to the school for all public gatherings and had served for eight years as a place for basketball practice and games. From about 1910 to 1917 Mr. Flagg of Brandon rented the hall one or two nights a week for moving pictures and in 1930 sound equipment was installed for talking pictures which were shown here for two years. Until 1933 rentals showed a favorable margin over running expenses but now there are comparatively few rentals. In 1929 two rooms were finished off in the basement for the town clerk's office and a vault was made to hold the town records. A cement walk on the south and east side of the hall was laid at this time.

COLONIAL THEATER

The Colonial Theater was built in 1916 by George Farr and W. H. Cardell and pictures were shown there regularly until 1930. At this time sound equipment was installed in Holley Hall which was rented for two years by Ernest and John Sherwin who showed pictures there for that period. In 1932 John Sherwin moved to the Colonial and has shown pictures there ever since. In 1940 the theater was remodeled and is now known as the New Colonial. Pictures of very good quality are shown here nightly, including Sundays.

DRAKE-FARR BLOCK

In 1892 the Drake-Farr block was extended from the E. S. and S. D. Farr store to South Street. This necessitated the moving of the Gale store, formerly occupied by N. F. Dunshee and Willis Peake, which stood on the corner of Main and South Streets. This was moved to the place now occupied by Varney's Funeral Parlors and the house which had stood there was moved to some location on West Street. The postoffice was installed in the new block in 1898 and for a time the Bristol Herald had its rooms in the basement. In 1914 the new part of the Drake-Farr block was destroyed by fire and the original Farr store was badly damaged. The postoffice was moved to the Grange Hall on Garfield Street. The Farr store was soon rebuilt and in 1916 N. Lathrop and Son bought the corner lot and built the block which now bears their name and where the postoffice is now situated. The telephone exchange is on the upper floor of the Lathrop block. The space between the old Farr store, where the Tomasis now have a fruit store and ice cream parlor, and the postoffice has remained vacant.

VERGENNE-BRISTOL PLANK ROAD

In 1850 a group of Vergennes and Bristol citizens formed a company for the purpose of building a plank road from Bristol to Vergennes. This company, known as the Vergennes and Bristol Plank Road Company was composed of Datus Gaige, Luman Munson, Solon Burroughs, Samuel Holley,

Harvey Munsill, Elias Bottum, William White, Samuel Strong, William Parker, Samuel Morgan, William Pope, William Worth 2nd, John Roberts, Benjamin Ferris, Mosely Hall, Carlton Stevens, Henry Spaulding and Hiram Adams. The franchise was granted them November 9, 1850, and they began the construction of the road at once. This road started west from North Street just above the place where the depot was later located and continued past what is now the Catholic Cemetery and the Wright Ferguson corner north of New Haven Street, from which it followed an almost straight line to Vergennes, coming out on the road a little east of the city, a distance of approximately seven miles. The planks and sleepers in this road were made from virgin pine. Nine years later the company was released from all obligation to keep the road planked and was allowed to repair the road with earth and gravel in the usual manner of repairing turnpikes. It is evident that the planks had all worn out in that space of nine years and the toll did not pay for the upkeep of the dirt road so in 1861 the company was allowed to surrender the charter and the turnpike. Mr. Frederiek Wood in "Turnpikes of New England" says that the very few plank roads in New England were all located in Connecticut and Vermont, with the exception of one in Massachusetts.

In 1855 the Vermont Legislature granted a charter to a company planning to construct a toll road from Bristol to Huntington. In 1860 a company was incorporated to establish a turnpike from Bristol to Fayston. No further record of these two roads is available so it seems evident that for some reason the projects were abandoned.

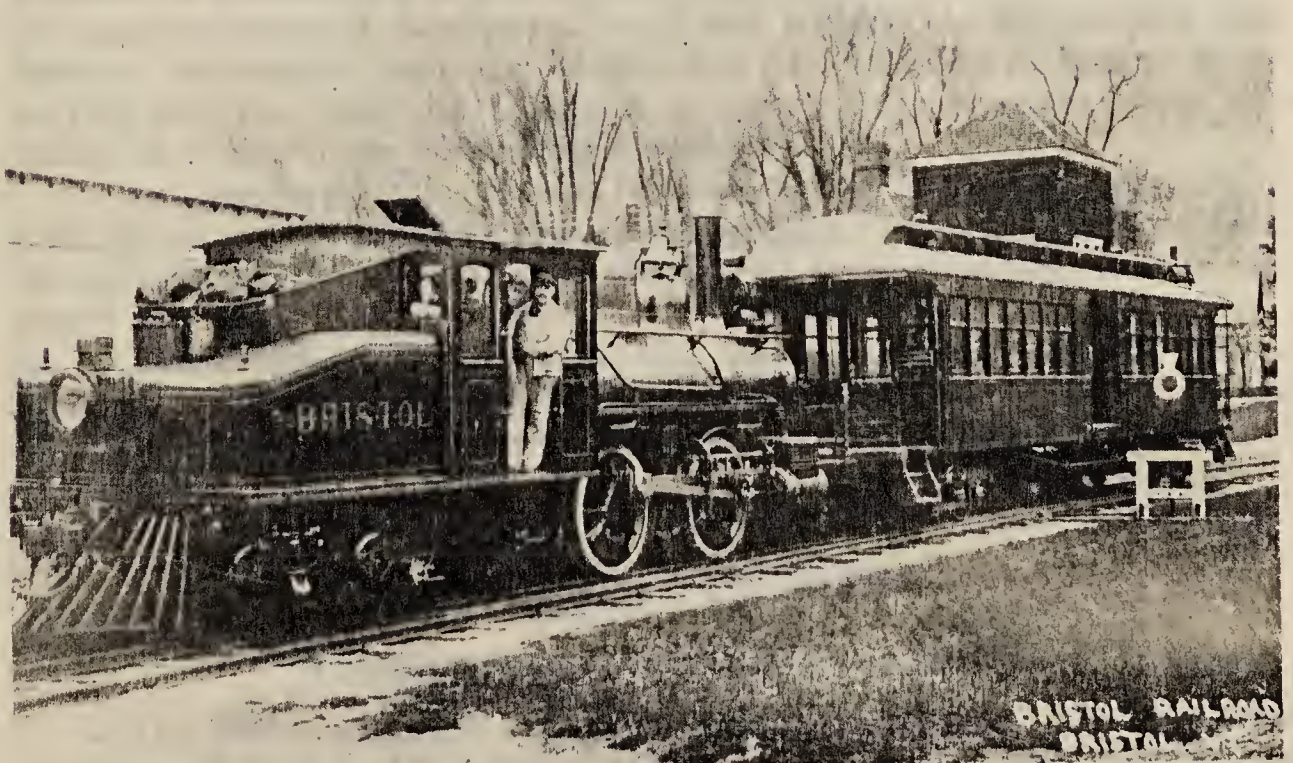
BRISTOL RAILROAD

The Bristol Herald, soon after its establishment, began a vigorous campaign for a railroad which should connect Bristol with the Rutland Railroad. Several meetings were held in the early eighties to discuss the subject, after which J. J. Ridley introduced a bill in the legislature incorporating the Bristol Railroad Company. In 1890 a survey was made of the route and on November 11, 1890, a special town meeting was held and six men were authorized to issue \$15,000 worth of bonds to aid in the construction of the road. Work was begun on the road bed in 1890, but much trouble was experienced with those in charge of the work and for a few months all activity ceased. Apparently the plan was doomed to failure, but it was taken up again by P. W. Clement who took charge of the project and finished it in January, 1892. The first train ran from Bristol to New Haven Junction, January 5, 1892, in charge of R. S. Smith who was superintendent of the road.

One amusing incident is gleaned from the Bristol Herald's account of the first trip, which records the fact that it took only twenty-five minutes to make the trip to the Junction but it required thirty minutes to return because the up-grade at Tueker's Crossing was too much for the engine



Bristol Depot



Bristol Railroad

which was soon replaced by a new and more powerful one. The new engine, gilt trimmed, bore the inscription "Bristol Railroad, No. 1" in bold letters and was a two-way one with a cow catcher at each end.

In 1893 a depot was built at Bristol and like everything connected with the railroad no expense was spared in its construction for the road was built for permanency. Two stops were made between Bristol and the Junction, at Tucker's Crossing and New Haven Village where simple shelters were erected. A third shelter was erected at Hubbard's Crossing where stops were made.

For a few years the Bristol Railroad was very successful but its passenger service declined as the use of automobiles increased and in its last years the railroad depended almost entirely on its freight service. When the manufacturing in Bristol began to decline the road became a liability and was discontinued in 1930.

This affected the transportation of two vital necessities, coal and milk. The railroad was the medium through which P. W. Clement of Rutland had furnished coal to Bristol. After the road was discontinued in 1930 the coal business was purchased by C. E. Lathrop and Glen Jackman, who are still operating it under the name of the Jackman Coal & Coke Co. The Whiting milk plant continued to operate for a short time after the road was closed, sending the milk to Rutland by truck, but it soon closed the Bristol plant.

In 1930 the Public Service Commission granted permission to V. I. Patnode to operate a bus between Bristol and New Haven Junction for the transportation of passengers, mail and freight. At the present time there is no regular passenger service but Mr. Patnode maintains a taxi service and the mail and freight is transported by Kenneth Hunt who meets all trains at the New Haven station.

The memory of the Bristol Railroad brings with it the memory of Levi Bates, one of Bristol's most loyal citizens. He was connected with the railroad for twenty-eight of its thirty-eight years of service, first as conductor and later as station agent.

The names of 2 other men who labored faithfully for the Bristol Railroad come to mind—Ralph Dennis who loyally served the Railroad for 25 years as superintendent and Fred LaParl, engineer for about 15 years.

ELECTRIC LIGHTS

(Compiled by Mrs. Durfee and Mrs. Estes)

The 1890's proved a successful decade for Bristol. The first train ran from Bristol to New Haven Junction in January, 1892, and on the evening of December 23, that same year, the switch was thrown providing the stores and hotels of Bristol with their first electric lights. Four days

later a 1200 candle power arc light was installed between the Bristol House and Holley Hall.

The first electric plant was located about 30 feet above the second Rocky Dale bridge and had a fall of only 25 feet. The station was equipped with the latest model apparatus by the General Electric Company of Boston and was considered one of the best plants in the state at the time. The dam was built by E. B. Palmer and the penstock constructed by E. M. Smith who also installed the wheels. The plant was owned by Mr. Barrett of Rutland and T. S. Drake of Bristol and operated for nearly five years by George Randall. The life of the plant was short for it burned in 1897.

A new plant was built adjacent to the highway near the upper covered bridge and was taken in May, 1897, by W. N. Hughes who operated it until 1912. Mr. Hughes not only built the second plant but also the present one now in use and superintended building the tube. The present plant has a fall of 100 feet. In 1905 the Horton Power Company of Lake Dunmore bought the Plant from Barrett and Drake and later Edward Blackwell became manager. The Bristol line became connected with the Horton lines and remained thus until the plant was sold to the Central Vermont Public Service Corporation, with headquarters in Rutland, in 1926.

Improvements in the present plant have been made several times and it is now run semi-automatically. Mr. D. W. Durfee has had charge of the plant since 1927. During the hurricane of September, 1938, the dam was almost entirely washed away. In order to repair the damage land was purchased by the Central Vermont Corp. and the main works changed from the south to the north side of the river.

There has been one fatality connected with the existence of the electric plant, the death of Mr. Tart in 1901. He was cleaning ice from one of the racks in the dam when he was swept into the high water. His body was discovered a few days later down the river.

LAWRENCE MEMORIAL LIBRARY

The Bristol library was started January 20, 1893, when a group of public spirited citizens met and formed the Bristol Library Association. Only one of the original members survives, Mrs. Elizabeth Rider. The library was opened in one room over the Patterson store in August, 1893. The library was financed by membership fees of \$2.00, yearly tickets of \$1.00, private contributions and public entertainments. A rental collection was also kept which aided in financing the project.

The first action taken in town meeting in regard to a library was in March, 1901, when \$50 was appropriated to help establish a public library. The appropriations were increased to \$200 in 1902 and 1903. In March, 1902, the Bristol Library Association turned over its property, which

included 1095 books and a large collection of magazines to the town and the Bristol Public Library was established.

At the annual town meeting in 1910 the townspeople voted to accept the offer of W. A. Lawrence to erect a library building and present it to the town. At the same meeting \$800 was appropriated for the use of the library that year. The building was completed and dedicated January 17, 1911. It was given in memory of Mrs. Lockie Partch Lawrence, first wife of Mr. Lawrence, and of his second wife, Mrs. Minnie Pect Lawrence, both of whom had been faithful workers in the Library Association. Mr. Lawrence, a man of considerable means and a dealer in farm machinery, left to the town a small real estate development containing four tenement houses, known as Lawrence Lane, to help finance the library which has been known since 1911 as the Lawrence Memorial Library. The library is now supported by rents from these tenements, funds and bequests from private individuals, yearly gifts from local organizations and appropriations from the town at annual meetings, varying from \$800 to \$1000. The library which now contains over 7000 volumes is open every afternoon and evening except Fridays and Sundays. Mrs. Eugenia D. Irish is the present librarian.

MUNSILL HOSE CO.

The hose company was started in the same year that the library was, 1893. The Rock Springs Water Company gave the first equipment which consisted of a hose cart and 700 feet of hose. Due to the generosity of the water company, of which Mr. Munsill was the chief stockholder, the company was named the N. H. Munsill Hose Co. and the by-laws were drawn up by Mr. Munsill and have always been strictly followed. One of these by-laws is that the membership must remain between 20 and 45. The hose house was built in 1898.

The company has rendered faithful service to the village for 47 years and in 1934 it was voted in a village meeting to allow some of the equipment to go outside of the village to aid in fire-fighting. New equipment was purchased by the company in 1937 which gives adequate protection for present needs. The present fire chief is A. J. Michaud and the clerk of the company is Chester Jacobs.

The business section on the north side of Main Street from the post office, which was then located on the side now occupied by the Tomasi fruit store, to and including the E. C. Dike store was destroyed by fire in 1898. The next disastrous fire occurred in 1914 when the Drake-Farr block was nearly all destroyed.

In 1924 Bristol suffered the worst fire in its history when Kilbourn's grist mill and Kate Stewart's barn were completely destroyed and other buildings on the south side of Main Street including Quinlan and Wright's grocery, the Rexall Drug Store, the bank, E. W. Varney's funeral parlors

and Palmer and Day's store was so badly damaged that they had to be practically rebuilt. Mr. Varney moved to his present location on South Street in what was formerly the Gale store. The rooms occupied by the G. A. R., the Women's Relief Corps and the Business Men's Association above these stores were also damaged and the records of these organizations were completely destroyed. It was at this time that the Business Men's Association reorganized and became the Chamber of Commerce. The tragedy of this fire is that much of it might have been prevented if an adequate fire alarm had been in use. It occurred in the middle of the night and the alarm, which was only a bell hung in the hose house, failed to awaken many of the fire fighting squad as the wind carried the sound in the wrong direction. Shortly after this an electrically controlled siren was installed which can be heard for a distance of more than five miles and is not affected by the direction of the wind. It is blown automatically at six o'clock every night to prove that it is in working order.

The O'Neill block, a very old landmark, was destroyed by fire in 1929. Although this was a very good building at the time of its construction it had outlived its usefulness at the time of its burning. It was first used as a hotel, the last landlord being Daniel Willard. It was purchased by Patriek O'Neill about 1850 and remodeled to form a business block. At the time of the fire Dewey Kemp's restaurant and Dan Thomas' store were located here. The site is now occupied by the Socony filling station which is set back much farther from the street to allow a driveway for cars.

TELEPHONE SYSTEM

In 1895 the public telephone system was installed. The following extract is from the October 17, 1895, issue of the Bristol Herald:

"We wish to call your attention to an enterprise that is having a healthy growth in Bristol and vicinity, namely the Bristol Telephone Exchange. The central is at Dr. Bisbee's drug store. The Doctor and his efficient clerk, Mr. Kingman, are very painstaking and render the best of service." We append a list of subscribers, in regular order:

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Dr. Bisbee, residence | Dr. Priine, office |
| South Side Drug Store | Stewart and Hier, grocery and market |
| A. L. Cain & Co., office | E. B. Palmer, residence |
| B. C. Sargent, grocery and market | Howard Clark, residence |
| Dr. Edmunds, residence | Sargent and Clark, grocery, West |
| Dr. Norton, residence | Lincoln |
| Bristol Railroad Co. Depot | Van Ness Dearborn, residence |
| A. E. Manum, residence | Dr. Dodge, residence and office, |
| Q. E. Grover, Park livery | Lincoln |
| Bristol Manufacturing Co., office | Lincoln Lumber Co., Lincoln |
| Bristol House | E. M. Whitney, general store, So. |
| Electric Light Station | Lincoln |



North Street Showing Corner Of Park At Left



West Street Looking Toward Main

A. E. Evarts, residence
E. B. Patterson, grocery
F. N. Hill, feed store

John Orvis, residence, So. Starksboro
D. H. Orvis, general store and post
office.

The telephone exchange was later moved to the South Side Drug Store. In February, 1911 the Herald told its readers that W. W. Wilson of the telephone exchange had issued cards with the name and number of each subscriber. Hereafter all would be called by number. From this small beginning has grown three central offices, Bristol, Charlotte and Richmond, with service covering part, and in most cases all, of eleven towns and with between eight and nine hundred subscribers. The present telephone office is upstairs in the post office block and it employs four operators. The line was first known as the Hanks and Gillette line, from its builders, Mr. W. E. Hanks and a Mr. Gillette. Later it became known as the Western Telephone and Telegraph Company. It is now under the management of F. H. Chessmore of Richmond. While connecting with the New England Telephone & Telegraph Company, it is owned independently.

ADDITIONS AND IMPROVEMENTS IN BRISTOL—1897

1897 was a year of construction and improvement for Bristol. That year the town voted that part of the highway tax be used for building and maintaining sidewalks. Ezra Smart was in charge of the construction and Charles Corey of purchasing the material for these first sidewalks which were of concrete. They were laid in front of the residences of Dr. A. M. Norton and Mr. C. K. Hodges.

In addition to the two factories previously mentioned, the condensery and A. L. Cain's Novelty Works, which were established in 1897 many buildings were remodeled and additions built. W. A. Lawrence built his new house at the corner of Spring and North Streets and had the old house which he had occupied for many years moved to Spring Street. The Lawrence house, due to its size, was leased by A. J. Choquet when he came to Bristol about 1930 and established his "Healthatorium" which he maintained here for approximately five years. The house is now owned and occupied by Mr. and Mrs. John Cragen.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK OF BRISTOL

The first bank in Bristol failed after being in operation only two years. S. M. Dorr's Sons of Rutland began their banking business in 1891 and closed the bank in 1893.

The First National Bank of Bristol was chartered in May, 1902. Among the officers and directors were Chase Bush, E. B. Patterson, W. E. Hanks, Ralph Denio, and F. R. Dickerman. In 1924, at the time of the big fire which destroyed so many buildings on the south side of Main

Street, the bank building was burned and the following year the present brick structure was erected. The present officers and directors are F. R. Dickerman, C. E. Lathrop, R. C. Brown, A. E. Farr, Dr. H. L. Williamson, Harlan Palmer, E. W. Varney, R. C. Sweet and R. C. Martin.

WATER SYSTEM

Bristol village was incorporated in 1903. One major value of incorporation was that the people of the village could now vote for an adequate water system to replace or supplement the Rock Springs system which had been established during the decade 1880-90. This system, better known as the Munsill system because N. H. Munsill was the leading stockholder, took its first supply of water from a spring on Hogsback mountain. Later the Rock Springs company laid a line from a spring back of Bristol Pond to the village and still later supplemented this by obtaining water from the spring in the Basin. At first this water was piped into tubs near the street, one tub serving two families, but after the Basin Spring was added to the supply, water was pumped into the houses. At the time of incorporation this system failed to supply the needs of the whole village and by 1905 plans were under way to bring water from springs at the base of Mt. Abraham in Lincoln to a reservoir on Hogsback and the present gravity system was thus established. Some time after this the Munsill system ceased to operate, but the spring in the Basin came into use again in the winter of 1933-34 when part of the water mains in the village froze and a pump was installed there to pump water into the mains which were not frozen and to prevent a water famine. At a village meeting in 1934 it was voted to buy the pump and equipment and install it permanently to be ready for emergencies.

The history of a water supply in Bristol village begins in 1811 when, in the fall, a company was incorporated to supply the residents of the village with water. In the principal aqueduct the water was brought first in hollow logs, then in lead pipes which proved so unsatisfactory that the logs were again used. In 1841 pipes were made from water, cement, lime and river sand. These pipes proved successful and were probably used until the Munsill system was established. In the smaller aqueducts wood logs were used exclusively.

November 25, 1883, the following residents of Garfield Street met and formed the Garfield Aqueduct Company: C. E. Smith, J. J. Dumas, M. P. Varney, S. D. Farr, E. G. Prime, Clark Huntington, Frank Greenough. At this meeting it was voted to assess each shareholder \$20 to meet the expense of buying pipe. A meeting was held April 26, 1884, at which the constitution and by-laws of the company were adopted and officers elected. The supply of water was confined to the residents of Garfield Street and to S. D. Farr on North Street and to T. S. Drake on East Street

who owned the spring from which the water was taken. Mr. Drake leased this spring to the company January 3, 1885. The company was of short duration, the last recorded meeting being held April 10, 1889.

BASEBALL

Baseball has formed an integral part of the recreational life of Bristol ever since the close of the Civil War. The Mountaineers, a nine consisting of William Harlow, Eustach Oaks, Charles Corey, Ransome Dunn, Charles Wildes, Homer Nimblett, Newcomb Munsill, Fred Woodridge and William Clark were playing games during the 1870's that thrilled the heart of every baseball fan. For seven years this team was undefeated and won the state championship at Essex Junction one year by defeating the Rustlers, a team of picked players from different clubs in the state. William Harlow, who died in 1935, was the last survivor of this famous nine.

In the '90's the Bristols, a semi-professional team rocketed to fame under the management of Hoyt Landon. The names of Wilder, Wasson, Drake, Farr, Shedrick and Daggett come to mind in connection with this team.

The home grounds of the Mountaineers was our present park which was then used chiefly as a grazing ground. The ball field where the Bristols played was Riverside Park, on the south side of New Haven River across from the Basin, a plot now overgrown with trees. This park was reached by means of a footbridge which was so often washed out by high waters that the field was finally abandoned. Several places were tried after this but were found unsatisfactory. The need of a recreation field became acute about 1922 and the Recreation Club was then formed and bought the land which now serves as a field for baseball and other sports. In 1923 work was begun on the field under the direction of V. I. Patnode, chairman of the grounds committee, to make a baseball diamond and lay out two tennis courts. The task was a hard one for boulders and stumps had to be blasted out, debris removed and fill-ins made. In the spring of 1924 the diamond and the courts were realities and could be used although some further grooming was necessary. Water was piped on to the field, the grounds were wired for electricity and the bleachers were built. This diamond serves the High School for its contests as well as serving the townspeople.

BRISTOL BANDS

The desire for band concerts has been manifest in the people of Bristol for many years. As early as the '70's concerts were being played on the common where the people gathered for the double purpose of listening to the band and meeting their friends, as they still do. In 1884 the Cornet Band made its appearance and at this same time there was a Cornet Band in

Lincoln and great times were enjoyed by these two who often played together. In 1886 a rival, the Citizen's Band, appeared to share the honors. Neither band was mentioned after the appearance of the Bristol Military Band, still a very live organization, which came into existence in the middle '90's. The only lights available to the early musicians were kerosene torches, one of which was supplied to each member. While the band was playing the torches would be held by the young lads present.

The Bristol Military Band has had a much easier time than the earlier bands for it has had the advantage of electric lighting almost from the beginning and for a number of years has had a bandstand which has recently been covered so that minor showers need not end the concerts. Within the last decade girls with musical talent have been admitted to the band and at present one sees a considerable percentage of youthful members who look very gay in their smart band uniforms which consist of white caps and trousers and blue coats. The leaders of the organization have been George Guinan, Howard Hasseltine and John Selden. Each year the town appropriates a sum of money for the support of the band and the members unlike those of the early bands are supplied with their instruments. The band has been a great benefit to the town because of the trade which is brought to the local merchants from the surrounding towns on band concert nights which occur every Tuesday from Memorial Day to Labor Day.

OUTLOOK CLUB

(By Mrs. Jennie Norton)

On the afternoon of June 19, 1900, a small group of eleven women met and organized a club, known for some time as the Literary Club. Later, when the Constitution was adopted, it was changed to the Outlook Club of Bristol, and has remained as such for four decades. The membership was limited to twenty-five with dues 25 cents annually.

For years the club had a miscellaneous program. It studied foreign countries, people and customs, the United States and Vermont. Members derived much pleasure and profit from the Bay View Course of Reading which was continued for years. The social affairs of the Club were outstanding, as everyone was untiring in their efforts to make each occasion a success.

The Club has sponsored many worth while projects for village improvement thereby becoming an organized factor for the promotion of these things which make for betterment.

The Club joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1912. This broadened its view and increased its activities. It has, through the Federation Extension, secured many fine speakers. The State Federation meetings are a source of inspiration to those who attend, and the visits of Federation Presidents have kept members in touch with the great work and given an incentive to move forward with renewed zeal.



Bristol Baseball Team

Back row, standing: Clarence Currier, Frank Farr, Will Hatch, Sidney Sayles, Clinton Hanks, Arthur Gove. Middle row: William Ridley, umpire, Charles Hatch, scorer. Front row: Edgar Farr, Wilfred Daggett, William Whittemore, Gillette, Ernest Guindon.

The club joined the General Federation in 1936. Its membership is limited now to fifty members with dues \$1.50, but the club hopes soon to increase that number as it has a Community House where the meetings can be held during the warm months.

The future looks bright for the Outlook Club!

COMMUNITY PAGEANT—1921

August 25, 1921, a community pageant portraying the history of Bristol was staged on the grounds of "The Maples" the home of Mr. and Mrs. Thorpe Thomas. Approximately 150 people, many of them descendants of the early settlers of Pooeek, as the town was first known, took part in the pageant which was sponsored by the Outlook Club. Among other historical scenes which were staged was one which showed an Algonquin encampment. These Indians were supposed to be the first visitors to the present town of Bristol. Following this a scene was enacted portraying the incidents of John Brodt's stay in Bristol. Brodt, who was an escaped convict from New York state, was the first white settler in the town and lived here for 12 years with only a dog for a companion. Brodt was discovered by Captain Bradley and some other surveyors who told him about a cabin only a short distance from his hideout which was occupied by two pioneers, Samuel Stewart and Eden Johnson. In the next scene Bradley was shown presenting Brodt with a pardon which he had secured from the state of New York after which Brodt left Pooeek to return to his former home.

After these historical episodes there was an interlude of folk dancing, the music being provided by an orchestra of eight pieces.

The next scene portrayed the legend of the "Money Diggings" beginning with the coming of the old Spaniard, DeGrau, to Bristol and his tale of accompanying some Spaniards when he was a very small boy to the spot at the foot of South Mountain where he claimed silver had been mined and hidden.

An old fashioned singing school was next conducted by Judge Erwin Hasseltine and the "pupils" who took part in it were dressed in old fashioned garments which had been laid away for years in the attics of the town.

Other interesting scenes were the appearance of Colonel N. F. Dunshee, nearly 90 years old, who as a young boy had joined the California gold rush in 1849 and the re-enactment of the first wedding in town when Samuel Brooks took for his bride an Indian maiden, Betsy Rorapough.

The last historical incident to be shown was that of planting trees to beautify the streets which had been done by Harvey Munsill and his niece, Rose Moore.

The pageant was closed by a minuet and grand ensemble in which about 150 persons participated, dressed in old-fashioned clothes and Indian costumes. The pageant was repeated the evening of August 26 and was attended by a large audience as it had been the previous evening.

Lodges and Societies

MASONS

(Compiled by Horace Farr, Secretary)

Libanus Lodge No. 71 F. & A. M. was conseerated Deeember 13, 1826, by the Grand Lodge of the State of Vermont under the direction of Philip O. Tueker as Grand Master and Louis Fillimore as Deputy Grand Master.

The first officers installed were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------|
| Worshipful Master | Henry Soper |
| Senior Warden | Horatio Needham |
| Junior Warden | John Howden |
| Treasurer | Philo S. Warner |
| Seeretary | Paul P. Holley |
| Senior Deacon | John Baeon |
| Junior Deaeon | Harvey Munsill |
| Tyler | Enos Soper |
| Senior Steward | Daniel Nimblett |
| Junior Steward | E. K. Dunton |

The first petition for membership in Libanus Lodge No. 71 was received from Daniel Collins and he was elected to membership on January 10, 1827.

The first petitioners for the degrees of Masonry were: Elijah Ferguson, Mason Bushnell, Theron Downey, Edward Swett, Frederiek Smith.

In 1826 there resided in Batavia, N. Y. one William Morgan who was denied admission to the Lodge at Batavia and though he elaimed to be a Mason he apparently could not furnish proof of his membership. However, he became vindicated and in company with a David C. Miller, who had received the first degree of Masonry at Albany, N. Y., concocted a scheme to publish a malieious book on "Freemasonry." This action eoused considerable resentment in the community and Morgan was arrested on several charges of petit lareeny, the purpose being to separate Morgan and Miller. However, his fine was paid and he was released and immediately re-arrested on the charge that he owed a tavern keeper the sum of \$2.68 admitting this debt he was once again committed to jail. The following day a man by the name of Lotus Lawson appeared and paid the amount necessary to seeure the release of Morgan. As to what happened after that there are two different stories. One is that Morgan was forced to enter a coach and was then driven aecross the country to the mouth of the Niagara River and into Canada. But the other story is that he went volun-

tarily and that he received \$500 for leaving Miller. This was paid and he left his guides and went into Canada and as far as is known never returned. In either case Morgan was taken to Fort Niagara, until arrangements could be completed for his leaving the country, but since nothing was generally known of his movements after this time the action gave rise to the theory that Morgan had been taken away by force and had met a violent death and it was this theory that fostered that Anti-Masonic Party in the United States.

As early as 1832 there were 141 Anti-Masonic newspapers in the United States. The election in 1828 gave Solomon Southwick, the Anti-Masonic candidate for Governor of New York, 33,335 votes. Martin Van Buren, a Freemason, had 136,000 votes, but in 1830 the Anti-Masonic candidate ran behind the leader by only 8,531 votes, 120,361 against 128,892. The Anti-Masonic Party was not confined to New York alone but spread over the whole of what was then the United States and Vermont was no exception for she was the only state that ever elected an Anti-Masonic governor or cast her electoral vote for an Anti-Masonic candidate for the President of the United States.

The most bitter form of enmity arose and charters were stolen, lodge rooms defiled and equipment destroyed in numerous cases. It is little wonder that many lodges ceased to meet and surrendered their charters. Feeling in Bristol ran at such a high pitch that Libanus Lodge was among those that surrendered their charters and the last meeting was held on September 8, 1829.

In September of 1858 several of the Freemasons of Bristol met and appointed H. Munsill to secure a dispensation under which they might meet until the next session of the Grand Lodge of Vermont. The dispensation was secured and the first regular meeting was held October 11, 1858, and the following officers were elected or appointed:

| | |
|-----------------------------|--------------------|
| Worshipful Master | H. Munsill |
| Senior Warden | H. Needham |
| Junior Warden | W. H. Holley |
| Treasurer | Amos E. Hasseltine |
| Secretary | L. Munson |
| Senior Deacon | Levi Hasseltine |
| Junior Deacon | H. Atwood |
| Tyler | B. Vinton |

Of the above it is interesting to note that Bro. B. Vinton served in the one office from that meeting in October, 1858, until March, 1871, a period of nearly 13 years, and the records show that he seldom missed attending any of the many meetings held during this period.

On February 14, 1859, Libanus Lodge was installed as No. 47 in the Grand Jurisdiction of Vermont by the Officers of the Grand Lodge under the direction of Philip G. Tucker as Grand Master and D. S. Potter as Deputy Grand Master.

The previously chosen officers were installed and H. J. Soper and H. J. Hoffman were installed as Senior and Junior Stewards respectively.

In the year ending December 27, 1859, an all-time record was established for the conferring of degrees as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Entered Apprentice Degrees | 33 |
| Fellow Craft Degrees | 32 |
| Master Mason Degrees | 30 |

Making a total of 95 for the twelve months.

On May 13, 1861, the Lodge voted a sum of money to be expended for the purchase of a piece of land for the erection of a Masonic Hall. In the ensuing months the building was erected on a site, the location of which is not positively known, somewhere on the north side of the main street in Bristol. On November 11, 1861, it was voted that all further communications be held at the new hall so it is evident that the building was completed at about that time.

In January of 1872 the hall was destroyed by fire and the following meetings were held in the Good Templers' Hall in the Dunshee Block. On February 12th it was voted to rebuild and the following resolution was passed:

Resolved that we will rebuild our Hall and for this purpose that a building committee of three, with discretionary powers to procure a deed if necessary from the owners of the proposed Union Block for a site in the 2nd or 3rd story thereof as they may deem expedient and contract with them or with other parties for the building of a hall. The material style, form and finish to conform with the proposed block or they may contract by the front foot pro rata for the same and may from time to time draw orders on the Treasury . . . Resolved that this committee have power to make any other arrangement they may, in their judgment, deem proper . . .

On March 10, 1873, the committee reported on the cost of the Hall and it was voted to hold all future meetings in the new hall.

The new Hall was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Vermont on November 11, 1873. (It is clear from Lodge records and Public Land Records of Bristol that this Hall was located on the third floor of the block occupied in recent years by the First National Stores and Wixon's I. G. A. Market and owned by Mrs. D. A. Bisbee and called the Bisbee Block.)

The last meeting was held on October 24, 1898, and the building was destroyed, along with several others, early in the morning of October 26, 1898, by a disastrous fire. This time, however, the property of the Lodge was partially covered by insurance. There followed considerable discussion as to rebuilding the Hall but apparently the other owners of the block had a stronger claim than the Lodge on building rights and they stated if the Lodge re-occupied the third floor they would stand no part of the expense of the roof for the building but the Lodge would be obliged to protect them. Evidently the members thought that this was a little too much so they gave up the idea of building for a time.

Brother E. J. Bristol and Mr. Geo. A. Danforth stated that they proposed to build a new building of fire-proof construction near the site of the former Lodge Hall and offered them the second story of the building at a reasonable rental and the proposition was accepted.

Until the new Bristol-Danforth block was completed the members of Bristol Lodge No. 36 I. O. O. F. offered Libanus the use of their hall in the Hatch Block and accordingly the Masons of Bristol met there until February, 1899.

The new block being completed the first meeting was held in the new rooms on March 13, 1899, and the hall was dedicated by the Grand Lodge of Vermont on April 5, 1899.

An item of passing interest is revealed in the secretary's report for the year ending March 10, 1902, which states that during the year 38 meetings were held, 25 of these were special meetings for conferring degrees and a total of 60 degrees were worked which would lead to the conclusion that this particular year was second only to 1859 in the activity of the Lodge.

On March 1, 1909, the lease expired and for some reason the Lodge decided not to re-lease the rooms but instead moved farther down the street to the Dike Block.

Many times the matter of once more building a separate Masonic Hall has arisen and in 1922 the Lodge purchased the Lawrence Lots on Main Street, being those lots between the Lathrop and Farr or Tomasi Blocks. Estimates were secured as to building costs but in order to erect a suitable building that would be in keeping with the appearance of the surroundings would cost a prohibitive sum and in 1925 the idea was again temporarily abandoned and the lots were sold to Mr. V. I. Patnode and a storage building was erected on the site.

EASTERN STAR

In May, 1901, the order of Eastern Star was installed, with forty-seven charter members, five of whom are living: Mrs. Seraph Sneden, Mrs. Nellie Greenough, Mrs. Virginia Kilbourn, Mrs. Minnie Smith, and Clinton Hanks.

There are 102 members in this year, 1940, with Alpha Sargent, W. M. and Ray Blodgett, W. P.

I. O. O. F.

(Compiled by John E. Cragen)

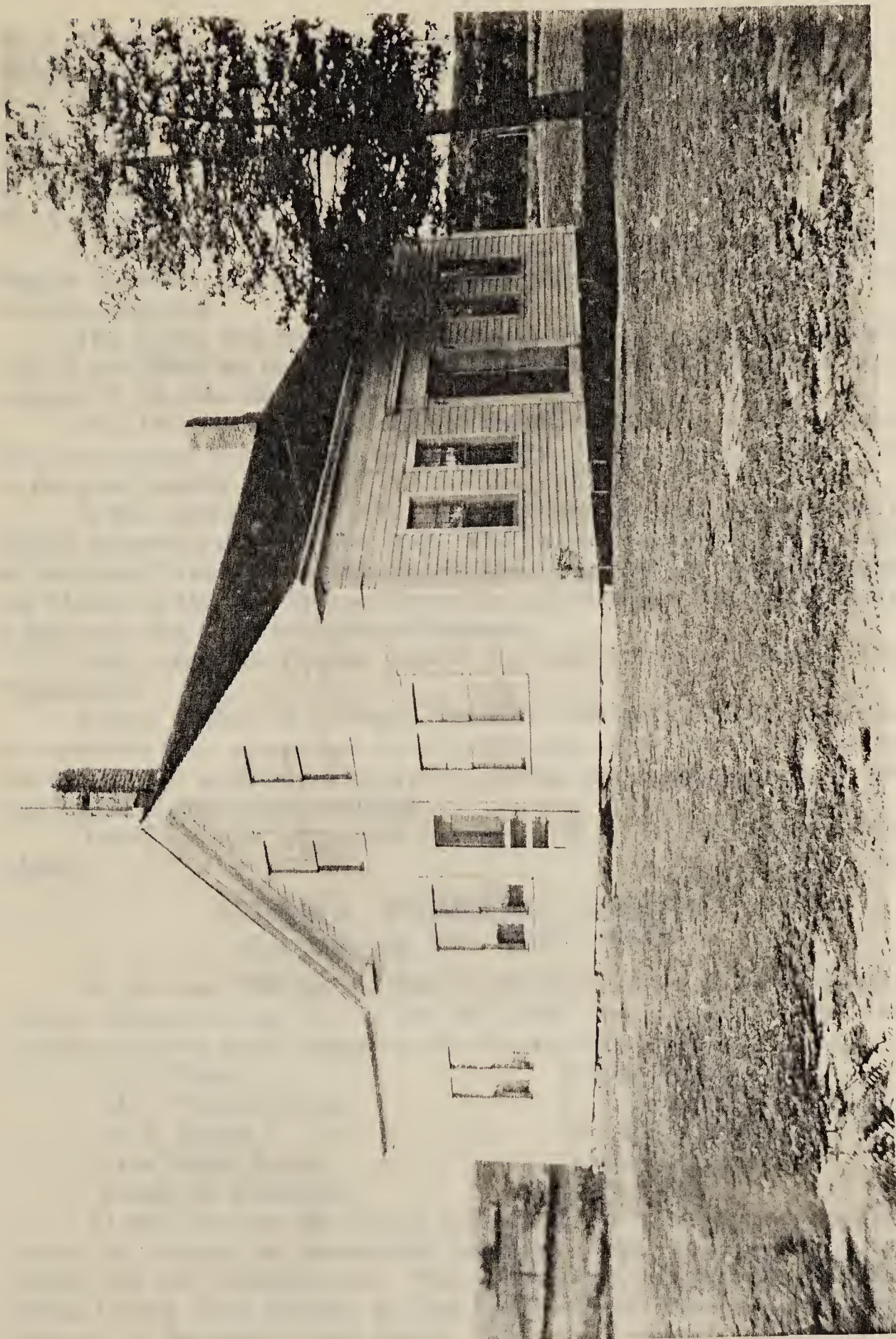
Bristol Lodge No. 36 of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows was instituted at Bristol, Vermont, July 8, 1898.

The following were charter members:

E. K. Smith
A. J. Hoag

Ira Kingman
C. L. Clifford

M. B. Gove
R. F. Hatch



Country Club House

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|----------------|
| W. A. Ferguson | Edgar Walker | W. W. Hatch |
| Edison Tart | N. D. Bissonette | W. J. Brown |
| J. J. Dumas | B. L. Beers | F. G. Levarn |
| E. B. Palmer | I. E. Stewart | C. S. Wardwell |
| W. F. Chase | Fred R. Garvey | P. R. Hill |
| W. M. Hughes | E. N. Dike | G. A. Thayer |
| W. A. Kinzie | R. E. Barnard | |

Bristol Lodge grew and expanded from July 8, 1898, with twenty-six charter members, to a membership a few years later of one hundred and forty-five members.

The Lodge and its members were so progressive that in the early part of the 1900's an encampment branch was instituted, taking in a great number of the subordinate branch.

The 1915 encampment and its members were so successful that they were asked to help organize and institute various other encampments in the other nearby districts.

A few years later in 1916, a Canton branch was formed here at Bristol consisting of a uniform rank. The Canton members were as active as the other branches, contributing to the community by participating in the Memorial Day and Independence Day celebrations. They were always a gala unit with their uniforms and plumes.

Later came the Orange degree, the highest to be obtained in Odd Fellowship.

Bristol Lodge, its members, together with the other branches and its members have always had a true community spirit, working always for the betterment of the community, sponsoring and lending whatever help they could to other local activities.

There are now sixty-eight members. W. J. Gaudet is now Grand Master.

ONAWA REBEKAH LODGE

(Compiled by Mrs. Herbert Flagg)

In the year 1900 on the 30th of October, a charter was granted to Onawa Rebekah Lodge No. 43 and the Lodge was instituted on that date. Members names which appear on the charter are as follows:

| | |
|---------------------|--------------------|
| R. F. Hatch | Bertha E. Stewart |
| Mrs. Frances Hatch | P. J. Bristol |
| F. T. Briggs | Mrs. P. J. Bristol |
| Mrs. Mabel Briggs | N. D. Bissonett |
| Carrie E. Patterson | E. N. Dike |

At this meeting the Grand Lodge Officers were present and conferred the degree on twenty-nine candidates, after which officers were elected for the following year. Mrs. Hatch was unanimously elected as Noble Grand, Alice Sumner as Vice Grand, Carrie Patterson and Bertha Stewart as Secretaries and Mable Briggs as Treasurer. Following the

election the appointed officers were named and then all were installed by the Grand Officers present.

During the next few years the Lodge membership grew rapidly and much of this prosperity was due to the cooperation and enthusiasm shown by the members. The records show that in 1902 Mr. Hatch gave the use of the hall to the Lodge for the previous two years, so that they might start the third year free from debt. During the years that followed Mr. and Mrs. Hatch found many opportunities to be of help to the Order in which they were so interested and for many years he was Degree Master for the Rebekahs.

In 1905 the first District meeting to be held in Bristol was presided over by Alice Sherwin, District Deputy President.

In 1908 new robes were purchased and they have been in use ever since that time, when the degree has been worked.

INDEPENDENT ORDER OF FORESTERS

The Independent Order of Foresters organized Court Bristol No. 4101 on March 15, 1900, with 39 charter members. The first meeting was held in the Sons of Veterans Hall. April 30, 1900, the Foresters sub-rented the IOOF Hall for two meetings a month. The first Chief Ranger chosen was T. H. Foss. At the present time there are 30 members with Alba Lathrop as Chief Ranger and Mrs. Mitchell Lathrop recording secretary. Meetings are now held in the Community House.

P.-T. A.

There is a very active Parent-Teachers' Association in Bristol village which was formed about 12 years ago and has achieved fine results in coordinating relations between the parents and teachers. The present president is Mrs. Glenn Jackman. A similar organization was founded at the Bristol Flats school in the early 1920's and by the effort of its members has done a great deal to improve the school building and grounds. Mrs. Wallace Rockwood is president.

SCOUT TROOPS

In 1937 Miss Grace Bosworth organized a Girl Scout Troup. There was no meeting place available at first so a vacant house in the Prime Hill district about a mile from the village was obtained for the Troop's use. Miss Bosworth and the Girl Scouts put in a great deal of effort to make this building into a suitable clubhouse. Miss Bosworth soon saw the need of a more central meeting place for the girls' and boys' activities and it is in a large measure due to her efforts that the people of Bristol became conscious of the acute need of a Community House and working with her attained Gaige Moor as a community center. In 1939 Mrs. Floyd Ladue and Mrs. A. Harry Roller organized a second Girl Scout Troop made up of younger girls than those in Troop 1.

There are two Boy Scout troops in Bristol. The first one was organized about 1938 and is at present under the leadership of Rev. Loren Heaton. The second one, recently organized is composed of younger boys led by Wyman Estey.

W. C. T. U.

One society of early origin which is active today is the W. C. T. U. and the date of its beginning is not known as the records were destroyed. Miss Helen Weller has given unstintedly of resources and time to this organization and the union is known as the Hellen Weller Union. Mrs. Joel Page was the first president, and Mrs. Arthur Jacobs is president now.

COUNTRY CLUB

The need of a golf course in Bristol had been felt for some time before a country club was organized. About seventy per cent of the tourists writing for information wanted to know if there was a chance to play golf. In 1929 a small group of people organized for the purpose of securing a golf course and clubhouse. Card parties and entertainments were given until enough money was procured to buy the so-called Jane Rider farm, north of the village, in May, 1929. In July, 1929, the Bristol Country Club was incorporated with Dr. G. F. Edmunds as president.

Work was begun at once on the golf links and they were opened to the public the following spring. The clubhouse was formally opened Wednesday evening, October 1, 1930, by a bridge and whist tournament sponsored by the Ladies' Auxiliary. The farmhouse was remodeled along colonial lines and a furnace was installed in the fall of 1930. On the first floor is a large reception room with a fireplace and open stairway, and the kitchen while on the second floor are the ladies' rest rooms. The country club has proven one of Bristol's greatest assets; it was one of the deciding factors in choosing Bristol for the home of the Middlebury College German School.

BRISTOL COMMUNITY HOUSE GAIGE-MOORE

In 1939 Mr. Kenneth Ives of Chicago offered to deed for a term of years to the Bristol Chamber of Commerce, in behalf of the town, Gaige-Moore, the home of the late Mrs. Rose Moore Ives. The only conditions were that the grantees keep up the insurance and assume the necessary repairs. Tax remission would apply to this building as to any public building. At the town meeting in March, 1939, the town voted to accept Mr. Ives' offer. Mr. Ives also agreed to pay half the cost of a tablet, designating Gaige-Moore as a Community House in memory of his mother.

A committee to have complete charge of the premises was appointed by the Chamber of Commerce. This committee consists of Lyle Churchill, Mrs. Wayne Shadrick, Mrs. John Selden, Mrs. John Kilbourn and T. R. Thomas. Since the time that the Community House was taken over by

the Chamber of Commerce the boys and girls of Bristol under the direction of Miss Grace Bosworth have put on two coats of paint in the rooms on the lower floor and have collected furnishings for the rooms. At the time of the committee's report, which was printed in the 1940 town report, the Community House had been used by the Chamber of Commerce, the Boy Scouts, the Girl Scouts, the Home Demonstration Club, the Outlook Club and the Airplane Club. Applications had also been received by the American Legion and the Foresters who expected to move in soon.



South And Elephant Mountains From Stony Hill



Western Approach To Bristol Village
Greenwood Cemetery Left Of Highway

Interesting Spots in Bristol

There are many interesting spots in Bristol to visit. South Mountain with its Devil's Pulpit, Money Diggings, Rattlesnake Den and ruins of a charecoal kiln, all within a short distance of each other. The History of the Money Diggings is one of the most fruitful.

The story of the buried treasure at the foot of the South Mountain in Bristol starts about 1800 when an old Spaniard, named DeGrau, appeared in Bristol. Having procured the necessary supplies he took up his residence near the foot of South Mountain where he began digging among the rocks. At first he refused to account for himself, but when forced he claimed that as a small boy he accompanied his father and a group of other people to this same spot where they mined a quantity of silver bars. When winter came they had to leave but had no way of transporting the silver so they secreted it in a nearby eave which they closed up with stones and clay. They were to return the next year but events occurred which prevented their ever returning. They were now all dead except DeGrau and he had come to claim the treasure. His story seemed accurate in detail and he spent some time digging, but he finally became discouraged and left, saying that he must have been mistaken in the location.

A few years later an odd looking vessel was found near this spot and some people thought that it might have belonged to the party that DeGrau told about. From that time on various parties started digging there, one group would give up discouraged and another would begin. About 1840 a group of a dozen men came from the Canadian border and began to work with system and diligence. They formed a stock company, inviting the public to join them. Every dollar that a person invested in the company entitled him to \$100 worth of the treasure, when it was found. The leading spirit of the enterprise was a man named Simeon Coreser, who being a salesman of great ability, talked many people into buying stock. This group worked 12 years on the project and spent \$10,000 tunnelling in the rock but finally gave it up as hopeless. In 1860 Coreser came back but gave up after two months' digging.*

To Franklin Harvey who died in 1893 that was the end of the story, but that people are still gullible regarding buried treasure is shown by the fact that in 1934 a man from the nearby town of New Haven went to the same spot where he began digging and dynamiting until little remains of

*Information from "History of the Treasure Diggings" written by Franklin Harvey in 1889-90.

the original cave and the excavations made by the party who started digging there in 1840. This man did not go to conjurors for advice, as did the early seekers, but used a "divining rod" which he believed would find the treasure for him. This man's luck was the same as that of all the previous searchers and there is little doubt that DeGrau was mistaken in his site, for silver has never been found in this vicinity.

RATTLESNAKE DEN

Near the center of the west side of South Mountain, not far above the "Money Diggings", is an area of several acres of what appears from a distance to be smooth, naked rock but on closer inspection proves to be a mass of broken stones piled promiscuously upon one another as if heaped by some giant hand. This heap of stones can be seen from Bristol Flats and other places in Bristol and adjoining towns. In early days it was thickly infested with rattlesnakes and consequently has always borne the name of "Rattlesnake Den."

In the early days people in Bristol and adjoining towns made a practice of hunting the snakes early in the spring when they first came out of their dens to curl themselves upon the rocks in the warm rays of the sun. At this season they are very sluggish and are easily captured. It was not uncommon for a hundred or more to be killed in a day. A letter from John Stewart of Royalton, Ohio, son of Samuel Stewart, one of the very first settlers in Bristol, states that his father with Captain Cyprian Eastman, Captain Gurdon Munsill and a few others whose names he had forgotten once went to the den in the spring of the year and killed 180 snakes. They were piled up like a cock of hay after they were killed and left there as at that time no use was made of their skins.*

The work of the early settlers in killing the rattlesnakes was very effective for it has been over 100 years since any of these snakes have been seen in Bristol.

BARKER CHARCOAL KILN

Midway between the Money Diggings and Rattlesnake Den, at the foot of South Mountain, lies the ruins of the Barker Charcoal kiln, so-called from the small stream of that name, on which it was situated. The usual method of obtaining charcoal was to heap the hardwood to be burned in a large pile on the ground and pack the earth all around it before firing it. It was a very arduous task as the current of air entering the kiln had to be regulated and the fire watched constantly. The Barker kiln was more extensive than the usual type being a stone enclosure, laid up with mortar, about 10 feet high and 20 feet square. Openings the size of bricks were made on all four sides for drafts and bricks kept on hand to fill these openings when it was necessary to close the drafts. The south side of this kiln

**Account of Rattlesnake Den written by Mrs. Jessie Stanton.*

is still in almost perfect condition and is an interesting place to visit when one is in the vicinity.

THE COBBLE CAVE

In the extreme south part of the town a short distance from the Middlebury line is a large round hill known as "The Cobble" which stands considerably above the surrounding land. On the south side of this hill and near the top is a barrel shaped cave which is often visited. The entrance to this cave is very narrow, but after one has forced his way through it he enters a large room where the remains of a limestone stalactite can be seen, which was long ago broken off and carried away. This cave is very easy to reach as it is a very short distance from route 116.

BRISTOL ROCK

Another point of interest in Bristol is the Prayer Rock at the foot of Drake's Hill at the entrance to Bristol Village from the east. This is a large, smooth rock situated beside the highway. Dr. Joseph Greene of Buffalo, who grew up in this vicinity and was a frequent summer visitor to Bristol, had for a long time cherished the idea of having the Lord's Prayer engraved upon this rock. Dr. Greene's desire was strengthened by a trip abroad where he saw similar bits of engraving. In 1891 Dr. Greene came to Bristol for his vacation and at that time hired W. N. McGee to do the engraving for him. After the engraving was done the letters were painted with white paint, which has been frequently applied since so that the letters can be seen easily from the road.

BURNHAM'S FALLS AND DRAKE WOODS

Burnham's Falls, in Drake Woods is also a point of interest. Orin Burnham owned and operated one of the early forges in Bristol just above these Falls. This forge did not do well and Mr. Burnham became depressed as a result of which he committed suicide by jumping over the falls which have been known ever since as Burnham's Falls.

There was at that time no road through Drake Woods and the ore, which was mined in Crown Point, New York, was drawn by ox team over a long road which wound around through Starksboro before reaching the forge. At last a road was opened through these woods and there is a story that to celebrate this event Mr. Drake, the proprietor of a public house on the Starksboro road adjacent to the newly opened road, gave a party to which he invited the public. Here rum flowed freely and before the night was over the merry-makers had thrown Mr. Drake into the fireplace, without fortunately causing him any harm. It was due to this celebration, so generously provided by Mr. Drake, that this section received the name of Drake Woods.

BRISTOL POND

(Lake Winona)

(By Henry Harvey)

Bristol Pond which is located at the base of Hogback Mountain about three miles north of the village played an important part in the early history of Bristol. Undoubtedly of glacial origin, it now covers approximately 200 acres, but at a much earlier period of geological history it must have been one of the larger and deeper lakes in this section of the state. Proof of this is found in the extensive swamp and marsh, bounding the lake on three sides, which doubtless was at one time part of the pond and must have added several hundred acres to its area. Vegetable matter has washed from the nearby hills until the basin is nearly filled with it. So far as is known no one has ever plumbed the depth of this vegetable matter. Several years ago a local sportsman lost his rifle, while in a boat on the pond and no amount of grappling could recover it. The east side, unlike the other three sides, is bounded by a hard sandy beach back of which stands a growth of hard wood.

This pond was evidently a favorite haunt of Indians long before the town was settled by white men. Arrow and spear heads have been found here to prove that they used it as a hunting ground and pieces of pottery have been discovered to show that a group of them must have lived here. Soon after Bristol was settled a small band of Indians spent a whole summer in camp near the pond. One of these was a very old man who conversed very intelligently. Among other things he said that to the best of his knowledge the east side of the pond had been his birthplace. He died toward the end of the summer and was given Christian burial. He was one of the very first to be buried in Greenwood Cemetery.

Bristol Pond has always been frequented by fishermen. Northern pike or pickerel, bull pouts and perch are found here. Several years ago a colony of beavers came from parts unknown and built a dam at the outlet near the Bristol-Monkton town line, thus increasing the depth of water in the whole pond by nearly two feet. As soon as the food supply was exhausted the beavers moved further down stream and the dam soon gave way. Several public spirited citizens contributed their services, rebuilding the dam in a permanent form. After this beaver colony moved it seems evident that a branch established itself at a smaller pond in the south part of the town, known as Gilmore Pond.

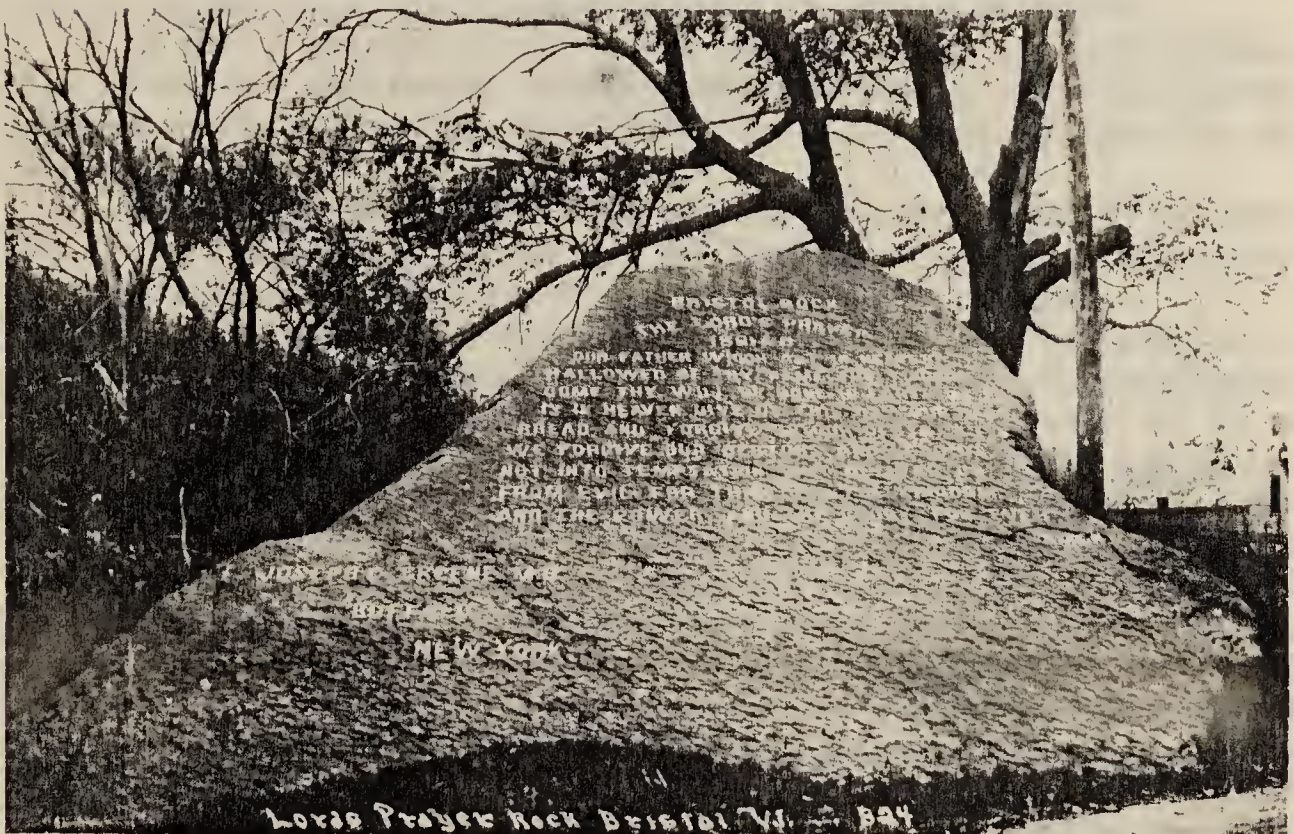
The name of Bristol Pond was changed to Lake Winona by act of the state legislature. The act became effective February 17, 1931, but the pond is still known to local residents by its original name.

GILMORE POND

Gilmore Pond is located near the Lincoln line in Little Notch. This pond furnishes one of the main tributaries of the O'Brien Brook but it



Looking East From Top Of Stony Hill
Mount Abraham In Distance



Bristol Rock

is not its source as has been erroneously stated. The name is derived from that of a man who owned a sawmill located by the pond. Remains of the mill dam can still be seen.

A tragedy occurred here in the early years of the 19th century when two brothers, named Moody, from South Bristol were deer hunting. The two brothers became separated, going in opposite directions around the pond. One brother, reappearing was mistaken by the other brother for a deer and was shot.

BRISTOL FLOOD

The flood of 1830 was the most disastrous which had occurred in Vermont up to that time. No lives were lost in Bristol but the property loss to town and individuals was very heavy. The forge built in 1802 by Franklin, Munsill, Arnold and Beal, which was located on the spot where one of the Bristol Manufacturing Company's buildings later stood, was just completing its fourth cycle of seven years each, and was swept away. After this it was never rebuilt. Ten bridges were destroyed and the road just below the spot where Baldwin Creek joins New Haven River was completely removed together with trees and stones, weighing from 25 to 30 tons, and carried down stream some distance by the force of the torrent.

In the flood of 1869 the Stewart gristmill and Howden and Bosworth sawmill were swept away and their big mill damaged. It has been said that the bridge there was also destroyed but this cannot be verified.

In 1897 a thunder shower raised the streams to flood proportions. The bridge by the Bristol Manufacturing Company, the Cold Spring covered bridge and one on the O'Brien brook in South Bristol were all destroyed.

In the flood of 1927 the chief property loss was to the Frary mill, the Drake and Smith Company and the Fred Hammond farm, where the A. Johnson Lumber Company is now located, on Bristol Flats.

In 1938 a hurricane swept over a large part of New England but in this section damage was done, not by the wind but by the water which again rose to flood proportions. The Bristol-Lincoln road was washed out for a long distance. From the point where this road leaves Route 116 as far as Lincoln Center there was nothing left but rocks and portions of the river bed except for occasional sections. This made it very inconvenient for traffic to and from Lincoln for some time as a long detour was necessary. The approximate cost of repair to the town of Bristol was \$20,000. At this time the Cold Spring bridge was again ruined and the road from the bridge to the foot of Prime Hill was torn away. Several smaller bridges were also destroyed. The damage to the A. Johnson Lumber Company is described elsewhere. The high bank which lies along the south side of West Street above the New Haven River was undermined by the high water and sections of it fell into the river, taking with them one garage

and threatening the safety of several houses on that side of the street. Beginning by the Bristol Manufacturing Company a retaining wall of hemlock logs has been built along the river to hold back the bank for a distance of a quarter of a mile. Beyond this a wall of stones was laid by the state for the highway was threatened.

AIRPORT

At a special Town Meeting held in Bristol, January 25, 1934, the legal voters appropriated a sum of money for the construction of an airport, and authorized the Selectmen to purchase a tract of land for same. The location was acquired from the following people: Spencer Lawrence, Ira Stewart, Bristol Recreation Club, John A. Kilbourn, Ruby D. Gilmore, Frank Duprey, Mrs. Celia Jimmo, Village of Bristol, Peter Cousino. This was a total of 45.68 acres which cost \$2,673.41.

The town alone has expended the sum of \$6,029.45 for labor and supplies in construction of the airport, while the W. P. A. project of the Federal Government up to the present time, December, 1939, has expended \$26,000.00. On November 9, 1939, a new W. P. A. appropriation of \$24,725.00 was allocated to be expended on the field.

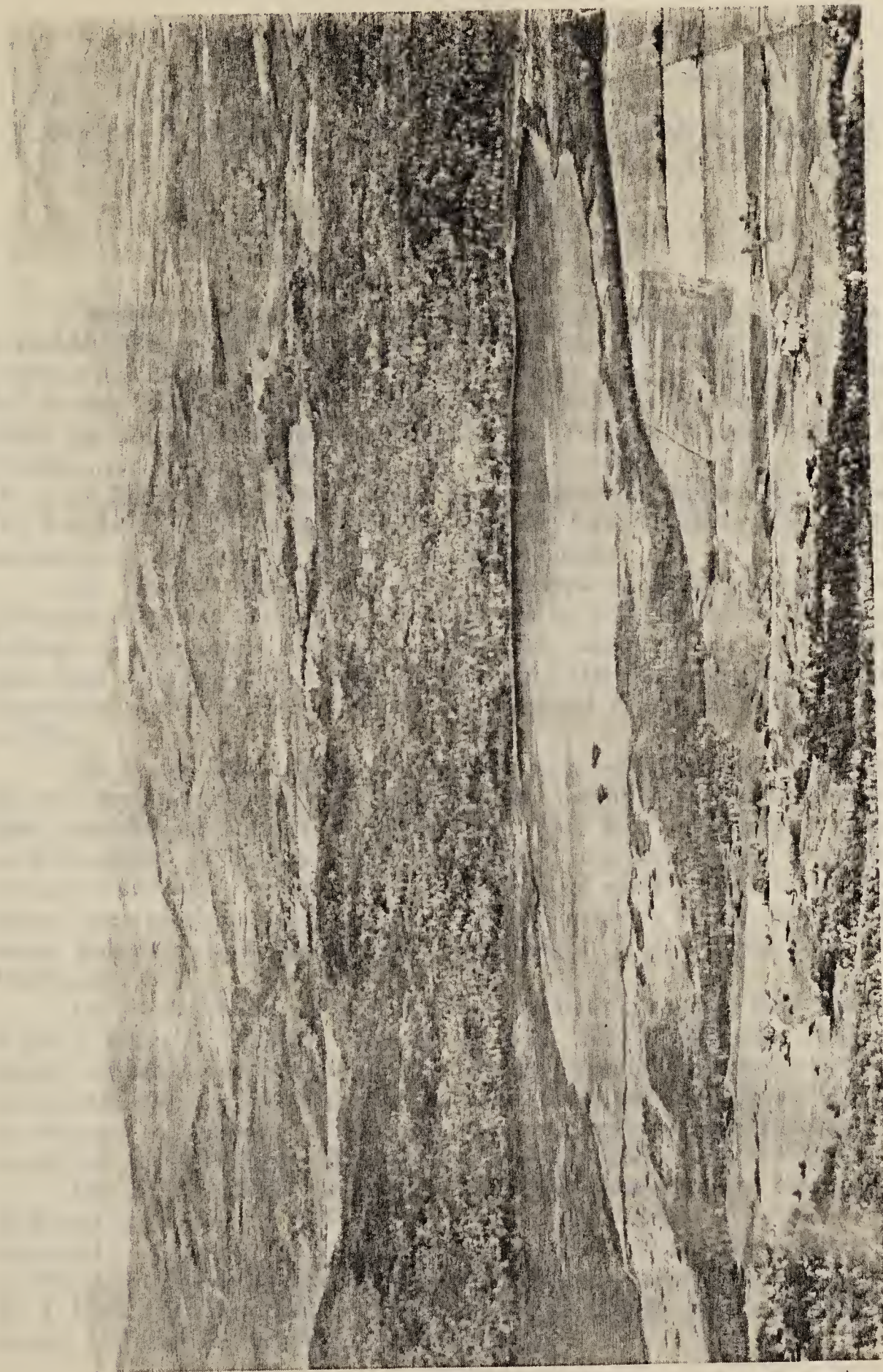
The north and south runway extends 2100 feet at present, and when completed will be approximately 2200 feet in length. The east and west runway is 1900 feet long. The northeast by southwest runway will be 1570 feet in length when completed. The northwest by southeast runway will be 2150 feet in length. The last two runways have approximately 19,000 cubic yards to be excavated before full completion. The airport has one hangar of wood and metal construction, 40 feet by 50 feet in dimension, located on the easterly side of the north and south runway about 400 feet southeast from the circle.

The selectmen appoint the Airport Commission as a supervisory board. The present members are: Ridley J. Norton, Arthur F. Gove, Lyle C. Churchill, George N. Lathrop, Leland H. Landon, G. Foster Whitcomb, W. M. DeCoursey and George G. Smith.

Pilot Joseph Rock has operated a private flying course for students since July, 1936. He trained 86 students the first year using a Taylor Cub, 50 H. P. model. During the year 1939 the Private Flying Division of the U. S. Civil Aeronautics Authority, a branch of the Department of Commerce, granted a quota of 20 students to Norwich University, 30 to the University of Vermont and 20 to Middlebury College to train for private flying. The class from Middlebury College is training with Mr. Rock at the Bristol Airport due to the fact that the town of Middlebury has no flying field. By December 18, 1939, twelve of the twenty students, including two girls, Miss Lois Dale and Miss Faith Wohnus, had soloed. Among this number were six Vermont boys. Miss Dale of Rochester, New York, was the first girl in New England to solo under this instruction sponsored

by the Private Flying Division of the C. A. A. Pilot Roek uses three planes in his flying course: an Aeronea 50 H. P., an Aeronea 65 H. P. and a 50 H. P. Taylor Cub.

The airport is maintained by rent received from flying activities on the field. It is considered to be the second best in the state, rating the necessary requirements of the Federal Government. Due to the fact that it is free of obstacles such as trees, telephone and power lines, it is one of the safest fields to take off from as every foot of space is available landing area. It is ideally located in the western part of the village, approximately eight-tenths of a mile from the business section. It is already proving to be a valuable asset to the community.



Aerial View of Lake

Bristol Professional Men, Business Concerns and Town Officers

BRISTOL DOCTORS

The list of doctors is incomplete and in many cases no data is available. Where only one date is given that represents the date at which practice was begun in Bristol. The first eleven doctors fall into this list: Dr. Joseph Cable—1794; Dr. James Day—1799-1814; Dr. Robert Smith—1803; Dr. Joseph Needham—1813-1833; Dr. William Warner—1843; Dr. Tousley; Dr. Frederick Wheeler; Dr. Levi Hasseltine; Dr. S. A. Skinner; Dr. J. H. Steele; Dr. White. Four of the above physicians: Dr. Warner, Dr. Tousley, Dr. Frederick Wheeler, and Dr. Levi Hasseltine were active members of the Addison County Medical Society.

Dr. Elon B. Prime was born in Bristol in 1843, graduated from Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia in 1870 and from the Royal College of Edinburgh, Scotland, in 1882. He practiced one year in Glasgow, then returned to his native country and after three years of practice elsewhere settled in Bristol where he practiced ten years until his death in 1896.

Dr. E. M. Kent, son of Dr. Marble Kent who had also practiced in Bristol, graduated from the University of Vermont Medical College in 1866, establishing himself in Bristol that same year, where he remained until his death. In his later years he changed from the practice of medicine to that of pharmacy and opened a drug store on south side of Main Street. Some years after his death his heirs sold this store to W. W. Wilson. This store, known as the "South Side Drug Store," is now owned by L. E. McShane.

Dr. Ashbel Dean, born in Monkton in 1857, graduated from the New York University Medical College in 1878. He immediately settled in Bristol where he soon built up an extensive practice and became closely associated with the business and political life of the town. Like Dr. Kent he changed to pharmacy in his later years and opened a drug store on the north side of Main Street. He died in Bristol in 1899.

Dr. D. A. Bisbee graduated from the University of Michigan in 1875 and came here in 1879 where he began the practice of medicine later changing to pharmacy. During the 1880's and 1890's we have three physicians in Bristol of whom we know little: Dr. Allen, Dr. Edgar Walker and Dr. E. I. Hall. Of Dr. Hall, however, we know that he was a homeopathic doctor and that he remained for some time.

Dr. George Farnham graduated from the University of Vermont Medical College in 1884. Although here only two years, 1884-86, he started the prize speaking contests, also the first lecture course ever given in Bristol. Among the lecturers in this course were Henry Ward Beecher and Russell Conwell who gave his famous lecture, "Aeres of Diamonds."

Dr. Homer Bogue graduated from University of Vermont Medical College in 1886 and settled here the following year when he bought Dr. Prime's house on the corner of North and Garfield Streets. In 1894 he sold his house and praetice to Dr. G. F. Edmunds, moving to California on account of his health, where he has been an outstanding surgeon and physieian in Ontario, California.

Dr. Anson Norton was born in Bristol in 1863 and graduated from University of Vermont Medical College in 1889. He soon established himself in Bristol where he was prominent in school affairs and the politieal life of the town, serving as town representative in the state legislature. He always considered the health of the community more important than his own and gave of his serviee without stint. This was strikingly illustrated in the influenza epidemic of 1919 when he made more than 100 calls a day, an effort which took a toll of his strength which he could never replacee. Seriously ill for two years he died in August, 1921.

Dr. George F. Edmunds was born in Irasburg and was a boyhood friend of Dr. Homer Bogue. He came with his family to Bristol as a bookkeeper for S. R. Cain & Co. about 1890. Soon after his arrival here he became interested in the study of medieine, studying by himself in his spare time with some help from Dr. Bogue. He attended University of Vermont Medical College, later transferring to Baltimore Medical College from which he graduated. In 1894 he bought Dr. Bogue's praetice and served Bristol as a physieian for the rest of his life. For many years he was town health officer and served in the eapacity of county health officer for several years. His aim was "to make Bristol the eleanest and healthiest town in the state" and due to his untiring efforts he saw many of his plans materialize. He also served the town as representative to the state legislature and as a member of the town school board. Due to failing health Dr. Edmunds spent his last winters in Florida but continued to see his patients during the summer as long as he was able. He died in Florida in the winter of 1939.

In the late 1890's Dr. Francis Briggs, a graduate of Bowdoin College and Baltimore Medical College settled in Bristol. He was a skilled surgeon as well as physieian and built up a large praetice. Dr. Briggs was a great lover of music and had a fine tenor voice which was available for his friends' service and for social funetions in the town at all times. He was a member of the Bristol Military Band for many years. He also served the town in a politieal eapacity as representative to the legislature. Ill with diabetes for five years he refused to consider his own health and

attended his patients until within three weeks of his death which occurred in June, 1924.

Dr. Harold Williamson was born in Huntington, Vermont, and attended the University of Vermont where he graduated from the Medical College. He established himself as a physician in 1906 where he has served ever since except for a year which he spent overseas as a Lieutenant in the Medical Corps during the World War. He has served the town ably as a member of the school board, as health officer and as town representative. He is at present an attending physician at the Porter Hospital in Middlebury.

Dr. Max Thompson, a graduate of the University of Vermont Medical College, came to Bristol in the early 1920's where he remained for about three years, at the end of which time he settled in Rutland where he still maintains his practice. Although here only a short time Dr. Thompson built up a good sized practice and became quite popular.

Dr. Edward Lane came to Bristol in 1924 from North Ferrisburg where he had practiced for a number of years, establishing a practice which he maintained here until the time of his death in March, 1939. Quiet and unassuming in his manner he made many friends and built up a large practice for himself.

Dr. Charles S. Paine, born and brought up in Randolph, graduated from the University of Vermont College of Medicine in 1932 and settled in Bristol in October, 1933 where he soon built up a large practice and has made many friends.

Dr. A. Harry Roller, a native of Jersey City who graduated from the University of Vermont Medical College in 1935, established himself in Bristol in the summer of 1939, and has built up a sizable practice in the short time that he has been here.

The first dentist in Bristol of whom we have any record is Herbert Hasseltine who began practicing here in 1877. He remained here only a short time, soon moving to Pittsford where he engaged in business. In 1881 Dr. Erskine W. Shattuck began practice in Bristol continuing his profession here until the time of his death, April 3, 1909. About 1890 Dr. Fenn settled here as a dentist but remained less than two years being followed by Roy C. Linsley who came about 1897 and remained here until his death about 1910.

In 1909 two dentists began the practice of their profession in Bristol. Dr. R. J. Bristol who was born in the town graduated from the University of Pennsylvania Dental College and returned to practice in his native town. Dr. Watson Morgan, a native of Lincoln, graduated from Baltimore Dental College and began his practice here at about the same time. Both men built up large practices and have always been willing supporters of any moves for civic betterment. In 1924 Dr. Morgan's office and equipment were burned and he moved to Burlington where he now practices. Since that time Dr. Bristol has been the only dentist in Bristol.

BRISTOL LAWYERS

Samuel Holley, son of Robert Holley, one of Bristol's earliest settlers, was the first man to practice law in Bristol, as well as being one of the first to practice in Addison County. He attended school in Bristol and Middlebury and was graduated from Westpoint Military Academy after which he returned to Middlebury and studied law with Horatio Seymour. He was admitted to the bar in 1809 and opened his first law office in Shoreham. During the War of 1812 he held a captain's commission and participated in the warfare during the winter of 1813-14. About 1815 he came to Bristol and opened an office where he practice until 1821 when he moved to Middlebury and began practice with Mr. Seymour. He served as county judge from 1833 to 1842.

Horatio Needham was the next lawyer to practice here. He was born in Whiting, Vermont in 1796. He began his study of the law in the office of Elijah Parker in Brandon and completed it with Samuel Holley in Bristol. He was admitted to the bar in 1821, opened his office here at that time and continued his practice in Bristol until the time of his death in 1863. He was very active in town affairs, holding the office of town clerk five years, that of selectman six years and was representative to the General Assembly for four terms.

Joseph Bradley was an active lawyer in Bristol for several years but no information concerning his dates is available except that he practiced here prior to 1880.

William W. Rider was born in Bristol in 1841 and studied law with Horatio Needham. In 1865 he was admitted to the bar and practiced here until the time of his death in 1915.

Lauren Scott and Riley Mardin were two other lawyers who were here during the early years of Mr. Rider's practice. Mr. Mardin specialized in claims and pensions and was superintendent of schools in the early 1880's.

The next lawyer to establish a practice in Bristol was Joel Page who came here in the early part of the 1890's and practiced in Bristol until 1904 when he moved to Burlington where he continued his practice and was later joined by his son, Guy Page.

Jasper Page was born in Bristol in 1874. He was graduated from Beeman Academy in New Haven and attended Albany Law School. He was admitted to the bar in 1906 and practiced in Bristol from then until the time of his death in 1924.

Three lawyers who came to Bristol after 1900 and who remained but a short time were Murray Bourne about 1908, Melwood Taft, about 1913 and Guy Townsend who came in the middle of the 1930's. Ezra Dike is at present the only practicing attorney in Bristol. He was admitted to the bar in October, 1937.



New Haven River At Rocky Dale



Baldwin's Creek In Drake's Woods

Two residents of Bristol have been judges of the Probate Court for the New Haven District. The first of these was Harvey Munsill who was judge from 1835 to 1870. The other judge was Erwin A. Hasseltine who held the position from 1900-14 and who was also teacher and superintendent of schools in Bristol for a number of years.

BRISTOL BUSINESS DIRECTORY—JUNE 1940

AIR SERVICE—Bristol Airport—Joseph Rock, pilot.

AMBULANCE SERVICE—E. W. Varney.

ATTORNEY—Ezra Dike.

AUTOMOBILE AGENCIES—R. W. Shadrick, Ford; B. W. Estey, Oldsmobile.

BAKERY—Joseph Demers.

BANK—First National Bank—F. R. Dickerman, President.

BARBERS—W. H. Browe; William Hier; M. J. Wendell.

BEAUTY PARLORS—Rainbow Beauty Shop - Bessie Davis; Peg's Beauty Shop - Mrs. Glenn Hill.

BLACKSMITHS—Stanley Cushman; B. J. Trombley (Bristol Flats).

BUILDERS' SUPPLIES—R. C. Martin; A. Johnson Lumber Co.; Drake, Smith & Co.

CATTLE DEALERS—E. C. Norton; George Peet.

CLERGYMEN—Rev. Loren Heaton - Methodist; Rev. Hugh Morton - Baptist; Rev. T. J. Liddy - Catholic.

CLOCK & WATCH REPAIRING—A. H. Miles.

CLOTHING STORES—N. F. Dunshee & Son (women's clothing and dry goods); A. J. Abrams; Dan Thomas; Bristol Men's Shop - Warren Brooks; Katherine's Dress Shop - Mrs. Katharine Rider.

COAL & WOOD DEALERS—Jackman Coal & Coke Co. - Glenn Jackman.

DENTIST—Dr. R. J. Bristol.

DRUG STORE—Laurence McShane.

ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY—Central Vermont Public Service Corp.

ELECTRIC REPAIR SERVICE—Chester Jacobs.

FARMERS' SUPPLIES—Farmers' Supply Store - A. J. Michaud.

FARM MACHINERY—A. B. Kilbourn; E. A. Ferguson.

FERTILIZER—T. C. Varney. See also grain and feed dealers.

FILLING & SERVICE STATIONS—Park Filling Station - Lawrence Bristol and Wendell Brown; Wright's Service Station - Wayland Wright; Socony-Vacuum Oil Station - Allen McKinnon, mgr.; E. J. Kneeland; Claude Walsh (Bristol Flats).

FLORIST SHOP & TRUCK GARDEN—Pine Tree Gardens - George Purinton.

FUNERAL DIRECTOR—E. W. Varney.

GARAGE—R. W. Shadrick.

GIFT SHOPS—Kathleen Burnham; Bristol Inn; E. J. Bristol's Estate.

GRAIN & FEED STORES (also fertilizer) - E. A. Ferguson; A. B. Kilbourn (also grist mill).

GROCERY STORES—Independent - Ceylon Brown; E. M. Smith; C. A. Wixon - I. G. A.; C. E. Gove (South Bristol). Chain - First National Stores - Charles Tyo, Mgr.; A. & P. Food Stores - Waldo Brown, Mgr.; Grand Union - Roy Clark, Mgr.

HARDWARE—E. N. Dike; John Dalton.

HOTEL & TOURIST HOMES—Bristol Inn - C. A. Burnham; Tourist Inn - Mrs. Irene Wheelock; Mrs. Frank Elliot; Mrs. Roscoe.

INSURANCE AGENTS—A. M. Russell; W. J. Gaudet; B. W. Estey.

LAWN MOWER REPAIR SERVICE—Clarenee Abernethy.

MAILING BOXES—Vermont Box Company - F. M. Thomas.

MILK PRODUCTS—Norton & Flagg.

MONUMENT DEALERS—Peter Nelson; Attridge & Elliot.

MOVING PICTURES—New Colonial Theater - Mr. and Mrs. John Sherwin.

NEWSSTAND—Park Filling Station.

NEWSPAPER—Bristol Herald - Otter Valley Press.

NURSES (REGISTERED)—Mrs. Fern Wilson; Miss Catherine Little.

NURSING HOME—Mrs. Irving Warburton.

PAINTERS & PAPER HANGERS—B. J. Clark; Ralph Morrison.

PHYSICIANS—H. L. Williamson; M. D.; Charles Paine, M. D.; A. H. Roller, M. D.

PLUMBER—John Dalton.

PRINTING—Bristol Herald Co.; Donald Wilson.

RADIO REPAIR SERVICE—Kenneth Booska.

REAL ESTATE—W. J. Gaudet; George Corkins.

RESTAURANTS—Ben's Restaurant - B. J. Comstock; Ann's Coffee Shop - Mrs. A. L. Rivers; Winthrop Trudo.

SEEDS & NURSERY STOCK—John Kilbourn.

SHOE STORES—E. J. Bristol's Estate; A. J. Abrams; Dan Thomas; Bristol Men's Shop.

SHOE REPAIRING—Dan Thomas.

TELEPHONE OFFICE—Western Telephone & Telegraph Co.

TRANSPORTATION—Bus Service - Bristol-Burlington, Henry McIntyre; Freight - Bristol Transportation Co., V. I. Patnode; Mail, Express and Passengers, Kenneth Hunt.

VARIETY STORE—Ben Franklin Store - Mr. and Mrs. John E. Cragen.

TOWN OFFICERS—1940

Moderator—V. I. Patnode

Town Clerk and Treasurer—Leland Landon

Selectmen—Felix Cousino, Clarence G. Lathrop, Arthur Gove

School Directors—A. M. Russell, Ford Thomas, V. I. Patnode

Listers—Fred Smith, Hazen Eddy, Herbert Flagg

Auditors—C. H. Bosworth, L. C. Churchill, Horace Farr

Library Trustees—Mrs. Alma Sherwin, R. W. Shadrick, Mrs. Beulah
Dickerman, John Selden, Thorpe Thomas

Road Commissioner—Alec Hammond

First Constable—Daniel McKinnon

Second Constable—Charles Sumner

Overseer of the Poor—G. Foster Whitcomb

Agent to Deed Real Estate—Fred Smith

Agent to Prosecute and Defend Suits—Ezra Dike

Trustee of Public Money—Ralph Brown

Town Grand Jurors—George S. Farr, Clarence E. Lathrop

Sextons—Hazen Eddy, Edward Meehan, Arthur Prime

Health Officer—Dr. H. L. Williamson

Credit should be given to the following people and organizations who have helped to provide information and to make this book possible:

To the members of the Outlook Club and their families who have provided records and accounts of local activities and organizations;

To the members and officers of the churches for the histories of the churches;

To the town clerk, Mr. Leland Landon, for his cooperation in making available the town records;

To Mrs. Jessie Stanton and Miss Frances O'Connor for lending research material compiled by them on the early history of Bristol;

To the librarian and directors of the Lawrence Memorial Library for the loan of books and papers pertaining to the early history of the town;

To Mrs. Elsie Chatterton, librarian of the Bixby Memorial Library of Vergennes for looking up and making available material on the Plank Road;

To Merrit Allen for information supplied;

To Mrs. Mitchell Lathrop for providing information concerning the Independent Order of Foresters;

To Mr. Horace Farr for looking up the records of the Drake-Smith Manufacturing Company and for his paper on the history of the Masonic Order in Bristol;

To Mr. A. F. Gove for his cooperation in finding sources of information;

And to numerous local citizens who have supplied dates and other necessary items of information.

Material has also been obtained from the following sources: H. P. Smith's "History of Addison County"; "Gazeteer of Addison County"; Hamilton Childs; "History of Bristol", Harvey Munsill; "The Turnpikes of New England", Frederick I. Wood; Walton's Vermont Registers, 1845-1856; files of the "Bristol Herald"; annual reports of the town of Bristol and records of the town of Bristol beginning with the granting of the charter in 1762.

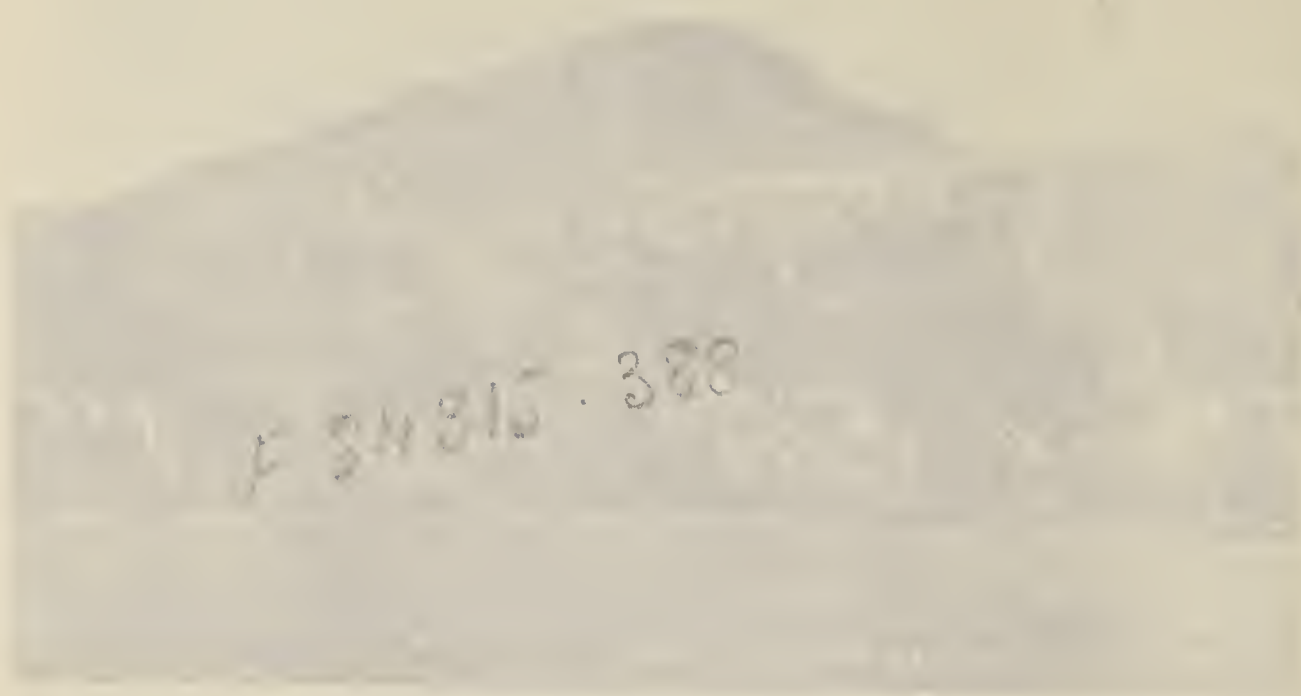
We wish also to thank the following people for the loan or donation of photographs used in this book: George N. Lathrop for the four aerial photographs which he made and donated; Dr. Bristol, Miss Evelyn Dumas, Mrs. Mabel Bates and Mrs. Joseph Rock for the loan of photographs and Mr. Albert Gove for the loan of his collection of negatives of Bristol scenes. Also thanks to Dr. George Russell, Arlington, Vt., and Arthur Gove.



Hogsback Mountain



Bristol Village Reservoir



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